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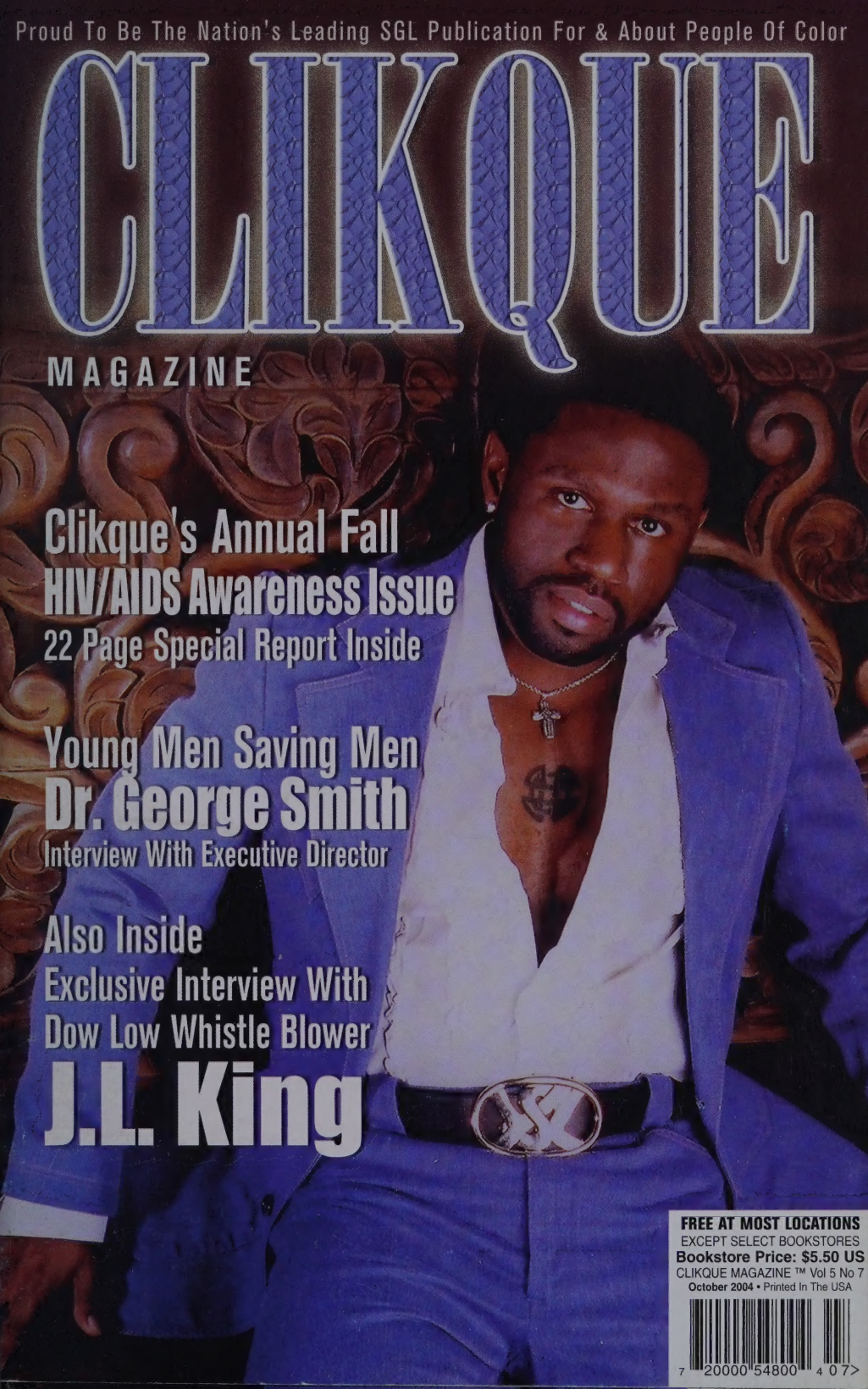

Clikque's Annual Fall HIV/AIDS Awareness Issue

22 Page Special Report Inside

Young Men Saving Men Dr. George Smith

Interview With Executive Director

Also Inside

Exclusive Interview With Dow Low Whistle Blower

J.L. King

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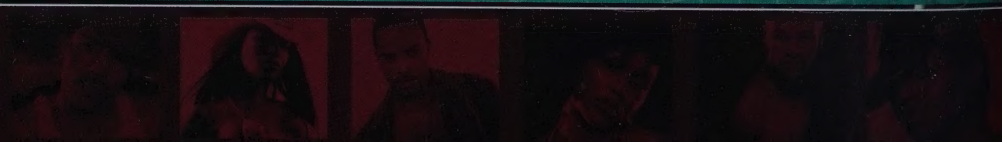

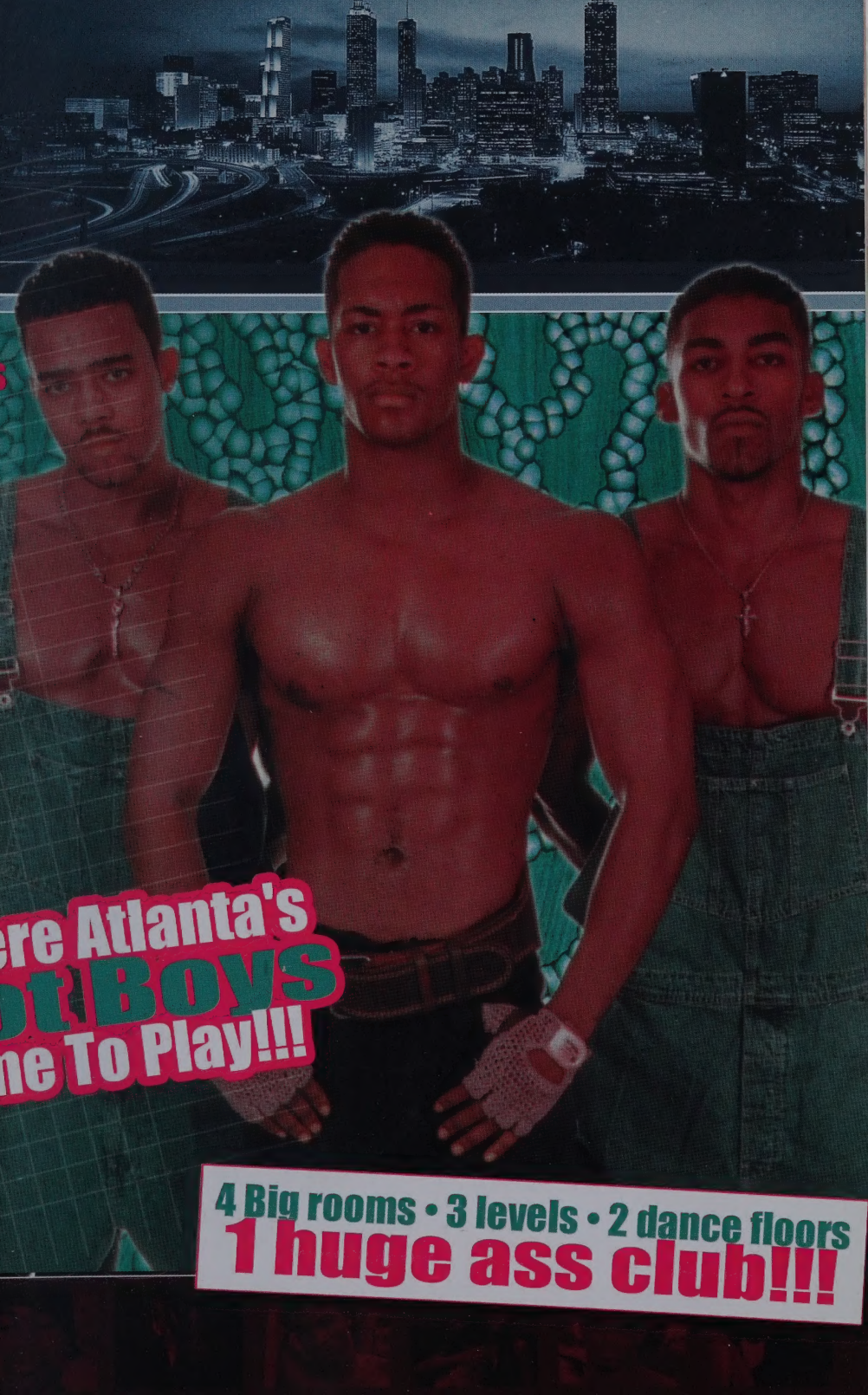
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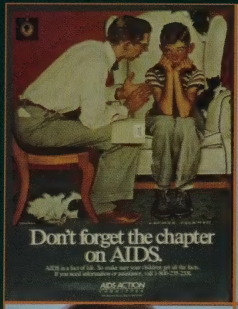

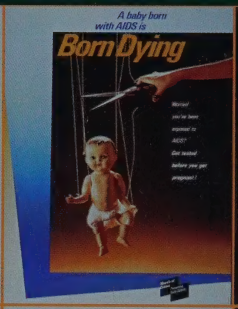

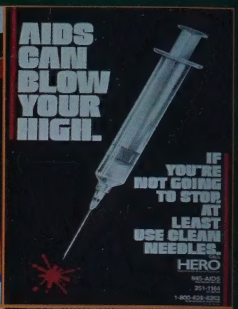

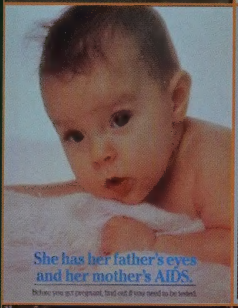

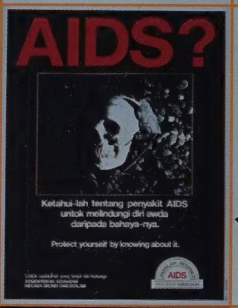
AIDS?
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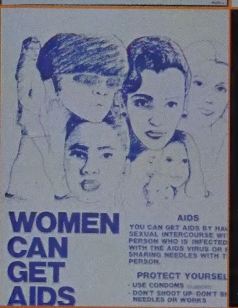
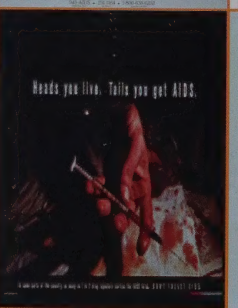
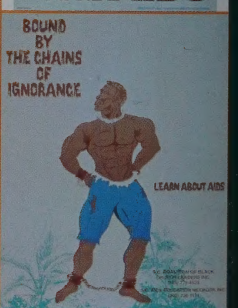
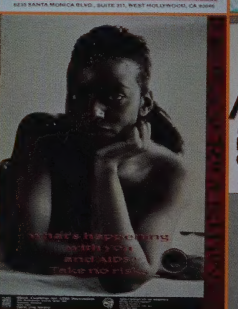
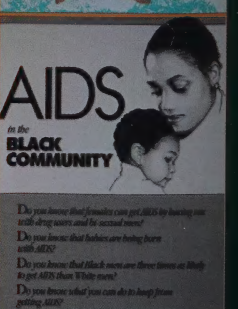










EDITORIAL

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF DWIGHT POWELL

Twenty-seven years ago, white gay men in the United began showing signs of what would later be called AIDS. Two years later in 1980 there were 31 AIDS deaths. However, Black America did not take notice; they saw it as being just a white gay plague. Today, AIDS has evolved into a Black plague that impacts all communities, demographics and sexes. Years of neglect, ignorance, carelessness, and sociological deficiencies have taken a toll, that now seems almost irreversible. In this issue of Clikque, you will be bombarded with a vast amount of numbers, figures and statistics; therefore, I won't go there with this editorial. After reading this special issue of Clikque, it is my hope that you'll be more conscious of the impact of HIV and AIDS, not only on the black gay community, but also, it's ramification for unsuspecting heterosexual women and their unborn babies.

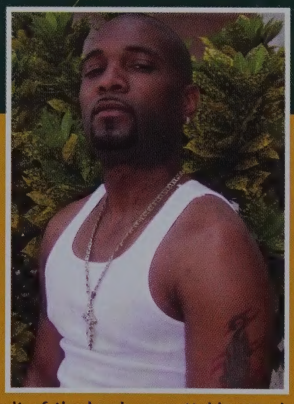
J.L. King, Arthur of *"On the Down Low: A Journey Into the Lives of "Straight" Black Men Who Sleep with Men"*, brought awareness to a subject that has been troubling me for years. I applaud him for making such a bold, brave stance, as he makes women more privy of men that this *down-low* (DL) phenomenon has a lot to do with the sharp increase in the HIV exposure rates in women and children. There are many people that would suggest that King's role in this debate is merely a financial one, however regardless of his initial intent, the outcome is truly a positive, awakening call, to both unsuspecting and naive women, and their dishonest "heterosexual" men.

As San Francisco is the hub for white gay males, Atlanta is the "super hub" for the black gay community in America. It's a city were the nation comes to party. It's also a city with probably the most bi-sexual or "down low" brothas. The late nineties witnessed a huge social change in Atlanta. Club Fusion, a gay club that opened it's doors in 1998 featured a smorgasbord of undetectable, unclockable, super masculine men... many of whom were married or dating women. I often wondered to myself, what are these guys saying to their women every Friday night... how are they able to get away so often at 2-3 o'clock in the morning? Another club, The Palace was home to thousands of "hardcore", pants hangin', oversized jersey wearin', tims trottin', raleigh-cap wearin' roughnecks. Jay-Z's "Can I Get A What, What" would be blazing upstairs on the second floor while Trina shouted, "I'm da baddest bitch" through the loud speakers on the main level. For most people, that was enough: great music, awesome drinks and a handsome crowd. But for many others... a Sunday evening at the Palace would not be complete without a little extra. So it's off to the basement... where anything and everything goes. I had been going to the Palace for more that a year, before I discovered the *Basement*... it's an area of the club that nobody really talked about. I would often see guys creeping downstairs until one evening my curiosity finally got the best of me. I grabbed my best friend's hand and motioned him to follow me downstairs to the basement. I just had to know what was going on down there. As we got downstairs and followed the narrow hallway, it got darker and darker. My friend started to chuckle and my mouth began to drop at what we initially thought was the sound of an x-rated movie. As we continued to walk towards the large, dark, cold room, I looked around for the TV that supported the sound we had been hearing, but it was not to be found... there was no TV. We had just walked into a mega sex-party, except there wasn't a cover charge, there was no door greeter, and nobody was passing free condoms or towelets either. The smell was fierce. Nobody spoke a word, only the sound of moans and groans would be heard in the silent air. I was amazed to learn that this had been going on for years right under my nose while doing my thing on the dance floor on the level above.

Because the Palace opened its doors from 5PM, everyone conveniently frequented it. From the neighborhood bums of Downtown Atlanta, to the college students of Morehouse and Clark Atlanta, and the nine-to-five daytime professionals, all could participate and have enough time to return home and begin their week on Monday. Now, upon reflecting, I cringe at the thought and certainty that many of those men went home and made love to their unsuspecting wives and girlfriends loaded with today's reality - HIV.

Since then, I learned that a lot of "nightclubs" offered "dark rooms". Also, a lot of these men frequented bathhouses and public parks at night for sex. Unfortunately, this was in an era when both Black gay men and bi-sexuals continued to see AIDS as a white gay man's problem. **Today's end-result is one that continues to devastate our black community.** Regardless of who has the greatest burden to bear for this disaster, we, self-identifying gays, bi-sexuals, and *"straight"* DL brothas must all begin to act responsibly in an attempt to prevent the spread of HIV and protect our families.

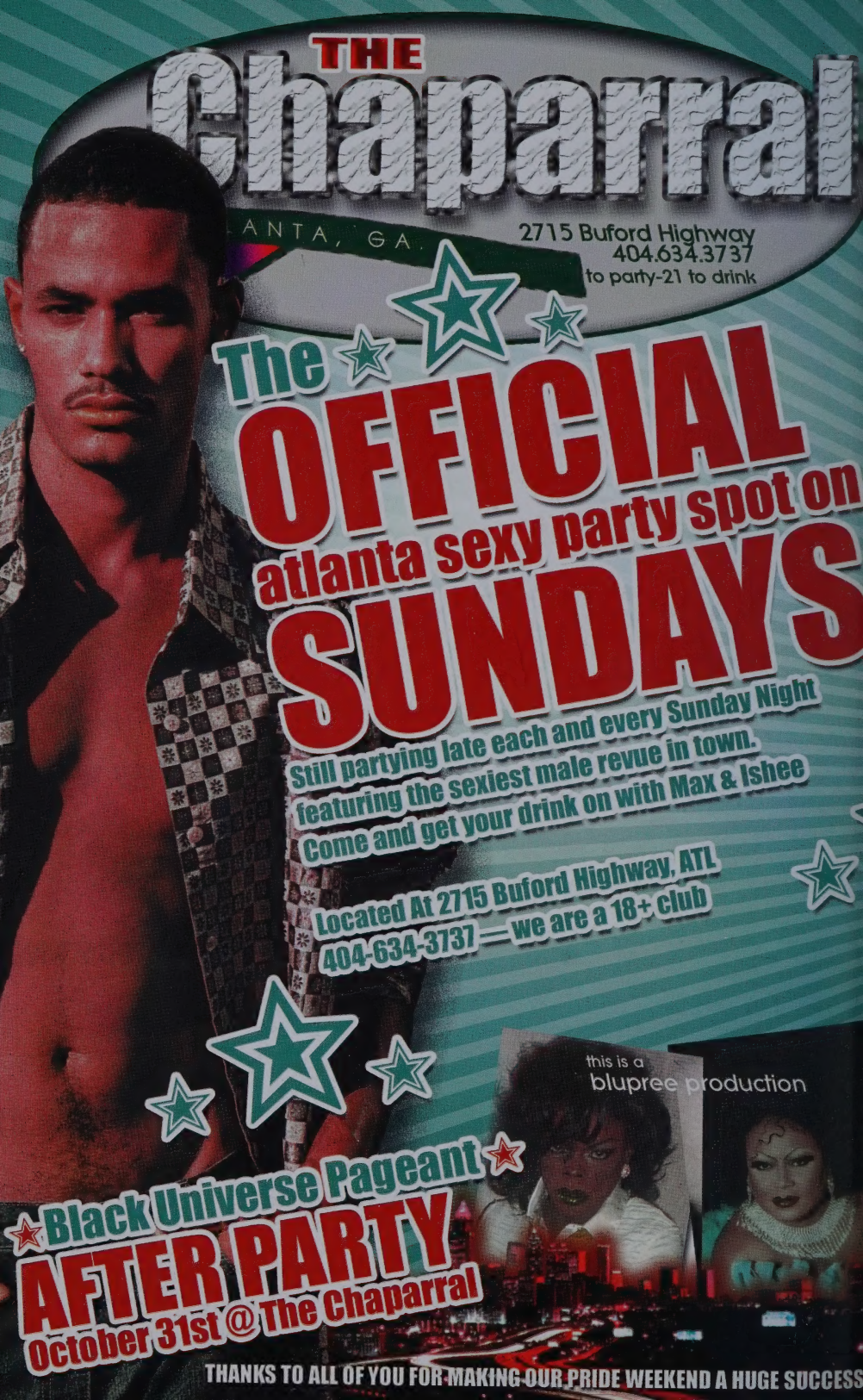
Dwight Powell



For years, individuals have utilized Clikque Magazine as a tool to address concerns and issues they deem problematic to our community. While I may not always agree with everything published in this magazine, I almost never censor the thoughts and ideas of my writers and supporters.

In the most recent issue of Clikque Magazine, we **"incorrectly"** titled an article submitted by our Sr. writer Don Sneed as an "HIV Editorial" instead of an **"op-ed"** submission to the magazine. Unfortunately, by labeling the article submitted as an "editorial" instead of an "op-ed" submission, we consequently supported all of the thoughts, ideas, and feelings of Mr. Sneed in that article. Mr. Sneed, a long-time supporter and true friend of this publication, for the most part, means well and is truly committed to stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS in the Dallas area. However, we should have used better judgment prior to allowing his last article to run "as is".

I would like to sincerely apologized to everyone that were offended as a result of the harsh, regrettable attacks waged against some individuals and agencies in the fight against HIV/AIDS. You provide an invaluable service with very little reward and pay; therefore, this sort of insensitivity is indeed inexcusable. As an entity, it's not Clikque Magazine's policy to wage attacks against anyone via the media.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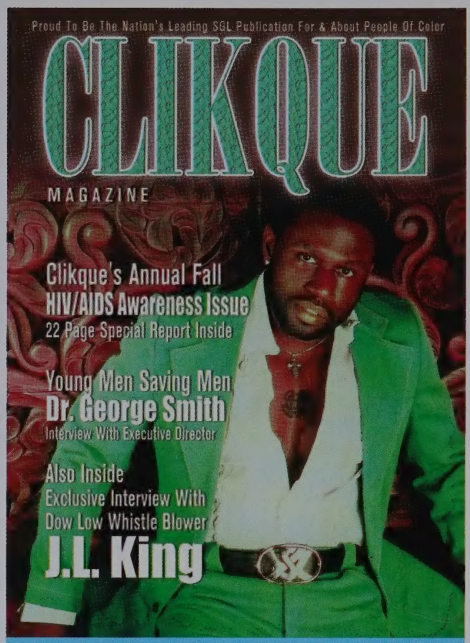

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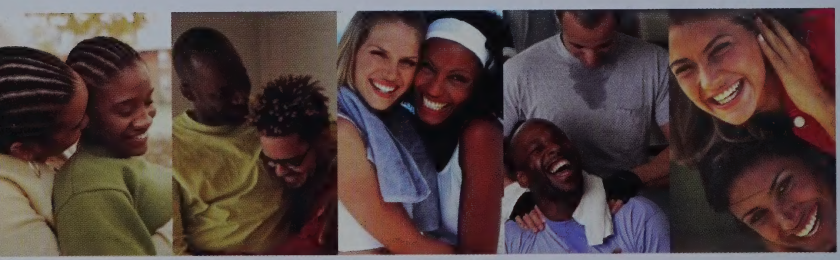

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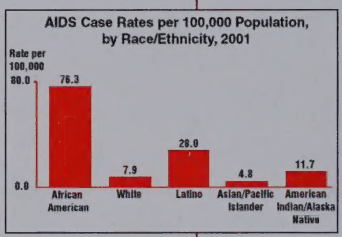
HIV/AIDS: IN BLACK AMERICA

This fact sheet was prepared by Sonia Ruiz, Jennifer Kates, and Claire Oseran Pontius of the Kaiser Family Foundation. It is based on: Kaiser Family Foundation, Key Facts: African Americans and HIV/AIDS, September 2003. The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation is an independent, national health philanthropy dedicated to providing information and analysis on health issues to policymakers, the media, and the general public.

African Americans have been disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS since the epidemic's beginning and the disparity has deepened over time. African Americans represent 12% of the U.S. population but now account for more than half of all new HIV infections estimated to occur in the U.S. each year and approximately half of newly reported AIDS cases. They account for more people estimated to be living with AIDS and more deaths among persons with AIDS than any other racial/ethnic group. HIV was the number one cause of death for African Americans between the ages of 25 and 44 in 2000. The epidemic has had a disproportionate impact on different subgroups of African Americans including women, teens, children, and men who have sex with men, and the epidemic's impact varies across the country. Moreover, African Americans with HIV/AIDS may face additional barriers to accessing care than their white counterparts.

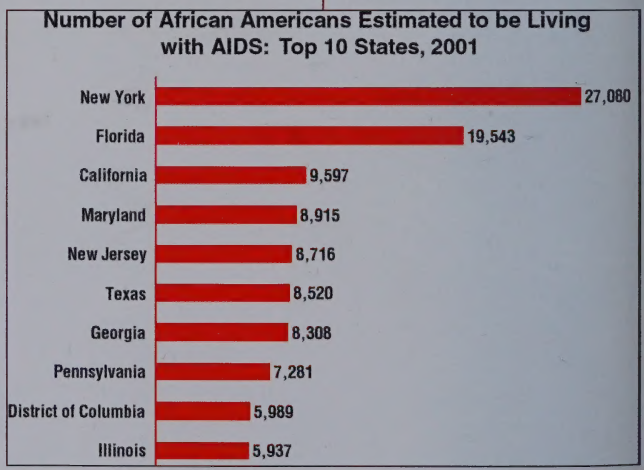


Snapshot of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic

- African Americans account for more than a third (38%) of the 816,149 AIDS cases reported since the beginning of the epidemic and about half (49%) of the 43,158 cases reported in 2001 alone. The number of AIDS cases reported among African Americans in 2001 was greater than for any other racial/ethnic group.3
- African Americans account for more than half (54%) of the 40,000 new HIV infections estimated to occur in the U.S. each year.
- As of the end of 2001, there were 151,530 African Americans estimated to be living with AIDS, or 42% of the total.
- HIV was the leading cause of death for African Americans ages 25-44 in 2000, compared to the 5th leading cause of death for whites and 4th for Latinos in this age group.
- In 2001, the AIDS case rate among African American adults/adolescents was almost 10 times higher than among whites.
- More than a third of African Americans (35%) say HIV/AIDS is the most urgent health problem facing the nation, compared to 13% of whites, and African Americans are much more likely to say they are personally concerned about becoming infected (55% compared to 26% of whites). However, concern among African Americans, as well as the public overall, has been decreasing over time.

Key Trends and Current Cases

- The AIDS case rate for African American men in 2001 was 8 times that of white men (109.2 per 100,000 compared to 13.7). Among women, the AIDS case rate for African American women was almost 20 times the rate for white women.
- Although African American men still account for most new AIDS cases and HIV infections among African Americans, African American women account for a growing share. In 1991, African American women represented 22% of new AIDS cases reported among all African Americans; by 2001, African American women represented more than one third (34%) of new cases reported among all African Americans.
- While women represent a growing share of new AIDS cases overall, this trend is more pronounced within the African American population. African American women accounted for a third (34%) of newly reported AIDS cases reported among all African Americans



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by the numbers by the numbers by the numbers by the

HIV/AIDS is the numer once cause of death for African Americans between the age of 25 — 44.

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in 2001 while white women represented 15% of new AIDS cases reported among whites.3,8 Further, in 2001, African American women accounted for a much greater number of new AIDS cases than white women.

- HIV transmission patterns among African American men vary from those of white men, although both groups are most likely to be infected through sex with other men. A greater proportion of white men are estimated to have been infected through sex with other men than African American men (73% compared to 43%). Thirty percent of African American men are estimated to have been infected through injection drug use, compared to 13% of white men; 21% of African American men are estimated to have been infected through heterosexual contact compared to 5% of white men.
- African American women and white women are most likely to have been infected through heterosexual contact (67% of African American women and 59% of white women). Thirty percent of African American women and 38% of white women are estimated to have been infected through injection drug use.
- Although, African American teens (ages 13-19) represent only 15% of U.S. teenagers, they accounted for almost two thirds (61%) of new AIDS cases reported among teens in 2001.10 A similar impact can be seen among African American children under the age of 13.
- The epidemic has had a disproportionate impact on African American men who have sex with men (MSM). In a recent study in 6 major U.S. cities, almost one third (32%) of African American MSM ages 23-29 were already infected with HIV, compared to 7% of white MSM. HIV incidence among young African American MSM was also the highest of any racial/ethnic group.
- Although AIDS cases among African Americans have been reported in every state, the impact of the epidemic is not uniformly distributed across the country. AIDS case rates per 100,000 among African Americans are highest in the eastern part of the U.S., particularly in the Northeast.
- Estimated AIDS prevalence among African Americans is clustered in a handful of states, with 10 states accounting for 73% of African Americans estimated to be living with AIDS. Ten metropolitan areas account for nearly half (48%) of African Americans estimated to be living with AIDS.5
- During the 1990s, important new advances in the treatment of HIV disease, coupled with prevention efforts, led to declines in the number of new AIDS cases and deaths among people with AIDS across all racial/ethnic groups. However, not all groups benefited at the same rate:
- AIDS cases among African Americans declined by 45% between 1993 and 2001, compared to a 73% decline among whites.
- Estimated deaths among African Americans with AIDS declined by 49% between 1993 and 2001 compared to an 80% decline for whites.
- As with all racial/ethnic groups, the number of African Americans living with AIDS has increased largely due to treatment advances but also to the epidemic's increasing impact on minorities in the U.S. Estimated AIDS prevalence among African Americans increased by 150% between 1993 and 2001 compared to a 68% increase among whites.

OUR PEOPLE OUR PROBLEM
AFRICAN-AMRICANS ARE MOST LIKELY TO...

- African Americans are more likely than other racial/ethnic groups to report ever having been tested for HIV. In 2000, more than half (58%) of African Americans reported ever having been tested for HIV, compared to 43% of the population overall.
- However, some African Americans may be tested for HIV late in their illness--that is, diagnosed with AIDS at the time of their first HIV test or developing AIDS within one year of testing positive. A CDCstudy in 25 states found that between 1994 and 1999, more than one third (38%) of African Americans were tested late compared to 45% of whites and 48% of Latinos. However, a more recent but more limited study in 16 sites found that African Americans and Latinos were more likely to be tested late than whites (57% and 62% compared to 42%, respectively).
- The HIV Cost and Services Utilization Study (HCSUS), a nationally representative study of people with HIV/AIDS in care in 1996, found that African Americans with HIVAIDS were more likely to be publicly insured or uninsured than their white counterparts, with over half (59%) relying on Medicaid compared to 32% of whites. About one fifth of African Americans with HIV/AIDS (22%) were uninsured compared to 17% of whites. African Americans were much less likely to be privately insured than whites (14% compared to 44%).
- The HCSUS study found that African Americans fared more poorly on several important measures of access and quality. These differences diminished over time but were not completely eliminated. African Americans were also more likely to report postponing medical care because they lacked transportation, were too sick to go to the doctor or had other competing needs.

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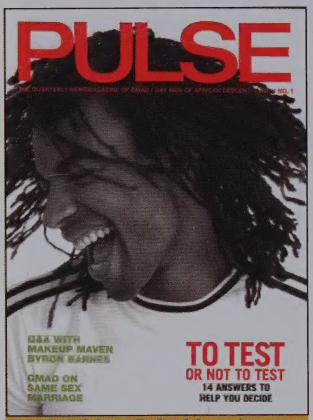
TO TEST OR NOT TO TEST



Reprinted from Pulse Magazine
By **Tokes Osubu**
Executive Director — GMAD

Recently, we asked people what was stopping them from going for an HIV test. We utilized focus group work with both G/B/MSM as well as male to female transgender women. In many ways, the results were predictable, and not very surprising.

Contrary to popular belief, some gay men have not put themselves at risk, and therefore, don't need to be tested. A large number of gay men are aware of the benefits of knowing their status and regularly go for an HIV test. Then there are those that would rather live in denial or who are just too scared to deal with the realities of being diagnosed with HIV. For several men dealing with a complex set of issues, HIV status is not prioritized as high.

Many in the community are so afraid of dealing with the stigma of testing/obtaining a positive result that they choose not to test.

According to the Young Men's Study conducted in six major cities in the U.S. The Young Men's Survey found that 12 percent of a sample of 15 to 22 year old men who have sex with men (MSM) are infected with HIV. 545 men who have sex with men, ages 15 to 22 years old, who attended public settings in, including dance clubs, businesses, and street locations.

Why Would I Want To Know?

By taking the test you are taking control of your health Early diagnosis and treatment can help you stay healthy. Having a test takes away the anxiety of not knowing If you know you are HIV positive you can take steps to protect your sexual partners from being exposed to HIV

Left untreated, HIV (and other sexually transmitted infections) can cause serious, sometimes irreversible health problems.

With the advent of OraQuick, a person can have a preliminary result within twenty minutes, significantly reducing the waiting time

Advances are being made all the time in terms of treatments, so HIV no longer has to be a death sentence

Are There Any Disadvantages To Knowing Your Status?

Some people would rather not know that they have HIV. Some feel that they wouldn't be able to cope. In truth, most people do cope with an HIV diagnosis, despite believing that they wouldn't. There are some disadvantages to having an HIV+ diagnosis:

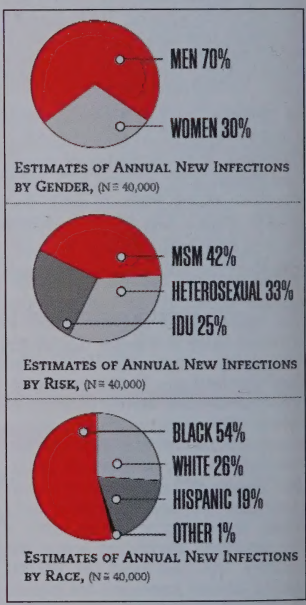
Some countries, like the USA, have laws which restrict entry to people who are HIV+. But many HIV+ people have visited the USA despite this law.

It is possible that you will experience discrimination for being HIV+. Some employers will be reluctant to employ someone who is HIV+.

Having said that, there are many vocational options available to HIV+ people and many are completely open about their status with their employers, who are understanding and tolerant of the extra burdens an HIV+ person may have on their time.

What Happens If I Test Positive?

The good news is that if you are HIV+ and live in the US, you are probably better off than most places in the world. As a gay man, you are likely to get the best treatment (which is paid for by the NHS) & be supported and treated as an equal citizen, suffering less stigma or discrimination than any other country. In the year 2000, a shocking 35% of people who died of HIV-related problems in the USA, died within six months of their HIV diagnosis. (need to cite the reference) Many of these deaths could have been prevented if they had tested sooner for HIV and been able to access treatments in time for them to make a dif-


MEN 70%
WOMEN 30%
ESTIMATES OF ANNUAL NEW INFECTIONS BY GENDER, (N = 40,000)
MSM 42%
HETEROSEXUAL 33%
IDU 25%
ESTIMATES OF ANNUAL NEW INFECTIONS BY RISK, (N = 40,000)
BLACK 54%
WHITE 26%
HISPANIC 19%
OTHER 1%
ESTIMATES OF ANNUAL NEW INFECTIONS BY RACE, (N = 40,000)

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ference. On average, it takes about ten years for people with HIV to develop symptoms, and with current treatment options, most people can expect to live long and fulfilling lives if they choose to take control and go and get tested.

Not knowing your status can be quite stressful. Finding out your status - whether it's positive or negative - can be empowering. It means the end of uncertainty, and an opportunity to make decisions regarding your lifestyle and relationships. Remember, the vast majority of gay men are HIV negative.

What Does It Mean If I Test Negative?

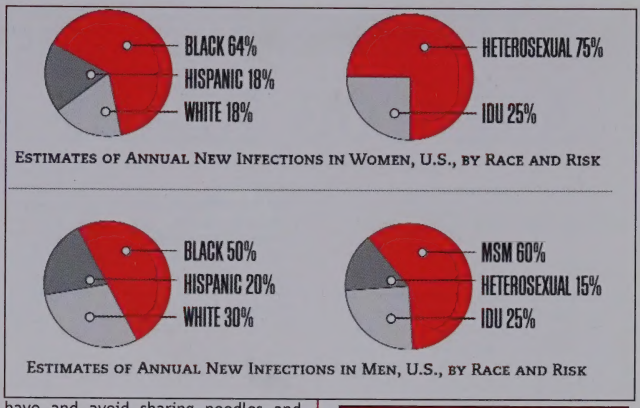
A negative test result simply means that your body has not produced antibodies to the HIV virus. This would normally mean that you do not have HIV.

However, it can take several months (average of 3 months) for your body to produce antibodies to the virus(this is called the window period), so in order to be sure that you are HIV negative, you may need to test again. During this time the test could be negative even if you do have an HIV infection and are infectious. In fact, you are most infectious during this window period before antibodies have been produced. So if you think there is a strong possibility that you have been exposed to HIV, you will need to repeat a negative test to be sure of the result. Make sure you stay away from all unsafe behaviors (i.e. sharing injection drug use equipment, intercourse without benefit of a condom).

If HIV exposure has happened in the last month or so, you should tell the doctor during your pre-test counseling session. He or she will discuss the possibility of early treatment, and probably take some other blood tests which can detect HIV in your blood, if this was not included in the initial screening test used.

Knowing that you are HIV negative allows you to make informed decisions about the sex you have moving forward.

Obviously a negative result offers you no guarantees for the future. So whatever the result of the test, you need to think carefully about the sex that you have and avoid sharing needles and injecting equipment.



ESTIMATES OF ANNUAL NEW INFECTIONS IN WOMEN, U.S., BY RACE AND RISK

ESTIMATES OF ANNUAL NEW INFECTIONS IN MEN, U.S., BY RACE AND RISK

How Would I Know I Am HIV+?

You won't - unless you have had a test. HIV can live in the human body for over ten years without showing any symptoms. You can't tell if someone is HIV+ by the way they look, or dress, or where they go out. (Put in transmission info) If you think you may have been exposed to HIV, you should think very seriously about having a test.

What Does An HIV Test Do?

The test detects antibodies to HIV in your blood. Antibodies are produced when your body detects an infection like a virus, but it can take up to three months for your body to produce enough HIV antibodies to give a positive test result. A positive result does not mean that you have AIDS, but that you have been infected with HIV and developed antibodies.

Where Do I Get A Test?

If your are a man who identifies as gay, bisexual or just gets down with other men, you can get a confidential HIV antibody test (utilizing Orasure - results in seven days or OraQuick - preliminary result in 20 minutes). Additionally, you can access a Confidential or an Anonymous (no name required) test at any Department of Health STD clinic, located in your area

What Happens When I Go For An HIV Test?

There are a large number of clinics where you can either make an appointment or just walk in. In most cases, you will be offered pre-test counseling - where they have a chat with you about the test and make sure you know what you are doing and have thought about either result, as well as answer any questions that you may have about your own risks. Then they take oral fluid/blood - which is a 2 minute procedure which is more nerve-wracking than painful. The length of time till you get your results depends on the clinic and the testing procedure used.

How Long Will It All Take?

Many clinics now offer same-day tests, which can shorten what can be a stressful time, particularly if you are worried about the result. On the other hand you often have to wait longer for same day testing appointments, so you may end up waiting in the long run. Work out what feels most comfortable for you.

Will The Results Be Confidential?

Clinics are free (it will cost you nothing) and they are bound by law to keep your information confidential - but if you still feel nervous about giving your name, you can request an anonymous test. These test do not require you to give your name. At the time of counseling and testing, you will be given a number which you will need in order to access your results.

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HIV TREATMENT:

ARE YOU READY TO START?

Get the Facts, and Make Smart Choices

WHAT IS HIV?

HIV stands for human immunodeficiency virus. Viruses are germs that cause people to get sick. They can cause all kinds of health problems, from the flu to chickenpox. However, HIV is the only virus that causes AIDS.

AIDS stands for acquired immune deficiency syndrome. It is very important for you to know that HIV is not the same as AIDS. A person is considered to have AIDS when he or she has a CD4 cell count (known as a T-cell count) below 200 cells/mm3, or when certain other illnesses also appear. The normal CD4 cell count for a healthy person is usually between 800 and 1,200 cells/mm3 (mm3 stands for cubic millimeter, which is equal to about one drop of blood).

The new research about HIV shows that, if people take steps to eat right, exercise, and get the treatments they need, they can stay healthier longer. Today there are many people who are living with HIV. After a person is infected with HIV, AIDS may not develop for several years.

HOW HIV WORKS

When HIV enters your body, germ-fighting blood cells called CD4 cells rush to attack. The virus attaches itself to the CD4 cells, and uses them to make copies of itself. Within a few weeks, billions of new HIV copies are produced -- and CD4 cells are killed.

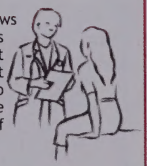
For a long time, your body is able to make new CD4 cells to fight HIV. This is why some people can have HIV for several years before they feel sick.

HIV is called a retrovirus because of the way it uses CD4 cells to make copies of itself. The medicines that are used to fight HIV are called antiretroviral drugs. They work by attacking the virus during the copying process.

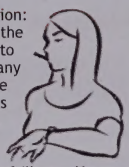
DECIDING TO FIGHT BACK

When you are feeling good, it's hard to think about taking medicine every day. But remember, there is a battle going on between your CD4 cells and the HIV in your body. If you wait until you feel sick to take action, you will have given the virus a big head start. It will be harder for you to get your health back, and some of the damage to your immune system may be hard to fix.

The following list shows how HIV disease goes through several different stages. You can see that the sooner you decide to take action, the more chances you have of staying healthier longer.



THE STAGES OF HIV INFECTION



1. Primary infection: The virus enters the body and begins to copy itself. Many people will have flu-like symptoms during this stage.
2. Asymptomatic (symptom-free): No obvious signs of illness. You may feel fine, but the virus is making billions of new copies of itself in your body.
3. Symptomatic (symptoms appear): Problems like weight loss, fever, and fatigue begin; new infections may also appear.
4. AIDS: CD4 cell count falls below 200/mm3, and you may have other illnesses, such as Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP).

Some experts think it's important to start treatment as soon as you find out that you have HIV. It is true that keeping the virus down with medicine, and building new CD4 cells by following good health habits, can help your body fight back. Talk with your doctor about what would be a good plan for you.

WHAT DO BLOOD TESTS TELL YOU?

When you were told you have HIV, your healthcare provider may have suggested that you get more tests. The two most important ones are:

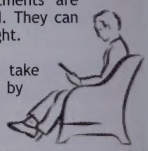
Viral load test: The results of this test tell how much virus is in your blood. The less virus you have, the better.

CD4 cell count: This test measures how many CD4 cells are in your blood. The higher your CD4 cell count, the better.

You and your healthcare team can use the results of these tests to keep track of your health and to discuss your treatment needs over time. Talk with your doctor about how often you should have these tests, and ask about other tests that might be helpful for you.

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY!

People who treat HIV say that it's never too early to take charge of your health. Almost every day there is new information available, and new treatments are always being explored. They can all help you in your fight.



Don't wait for HIV to take control. You can start by asking your doctor about getting the tests you need, finding out what stage of HIV infection you're in, and learning what treatment choices might be good for you. Then you can decide to attack the virus while you have the most options.

Each section in this special series is designed to help you understand a different part of the HIV story -- and how you fit into it.

How Nutrition and Exercise Help You Fight HIV

WHY IS FOOD SO IMPORTANT?

Just as your doctor prescribes certain kinds and amounts of medicine to help you fight HIV, you need to choose the right kinds and amounts for good nutrition.

Having a well-nourished body means that you can keep the weight that's right for you. It also means you'll be better able to stay healthy. And finally, eating right can actually help your HIV medicines work better, with fewer side effects.

Good Nutrition starts at the store

Choosing nutritious foods doesn't have to be confusing or expensive. While fresh foods are always good, you can save money by using canned, dried, and boxed foods. You might want to join a food co-op, or get some friends together to save money by buying in bulk.

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Good nutrition takes some planning: Try using these ideas:

Eat protein foods at least two times every day.

Protein is needed to build muscle. Good protein foods are chicken, hamburger, eggs, and canned tuna. Peanut butter and cooked dried beans, peas, and lentils are also very good protein foods, and cost less than meat.

Eat fruit at least three times every day.

Fruit adds vitamins to your diet. Apples, bananas, grapes, oranges, and raisins are easy-to-eat "take-along" foods. Fruit juice is good too. Canned fruit is easy to use, and even the juice in the can may be good for you if it does not have a lot of sugar added to it.

Eat vegetables at least two times every day.

The best choices are yellow and dark green vegetables like corn, squash, carrots, collards, broccoli, and spinach -- fresh, frozen or canned. Potatoes and yams are cheap, good-tasting, filling, and good for you..

Eat bread, cereal, noodles, or rice at least four times every day.

Many grain-based foods are available in bulk at low prices. Try oatmeal, grits, pancakes, spaghetti and other noodles, and rice.

Eat dairy foods at least two times every day.

Enjoy milk, cheese, ice cream, and yogurt. Dairy foods are also good when added to other foods.

Your healthcare team can give you more information about special needs you may have. If it's hard for you to shop, or if you don't have the money to buy food, ask about community services like Meals on Wheels and other groups that can help get the nutrition you need.

Avoid "empty calories"

A candy bar has plenty of calories, but not much real nutrition. It's important to make every bite count. To add calories, add toppings and extra ingredients to the foods you enjoy. It's OK to say "yes" to sour cream, cheese, and ice cream -- but try to avoid greasy or fried foods, which are fatty and hard to digest.

Don't forget fluids

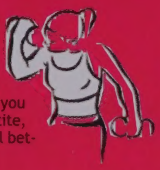
Liquids help you digest foods and help your body stay "regular." You should drink at least eight glasses of water, juice, milk, or other liquids every day. If it's hard for you to drink this amount, try taking lots of little drinks during the day.

Another kind of "healthy" food

People with HIV have to be careful while handling and preparing food because germs can grow quickly and make you sick. Here are some ways to stay safe:

- Wash your hands before and after handling food.
- Wash all fresh fruits and vegetables very well: remove peels and skins.
- Use hot, soapy water to clean cutting tools and surfaces.
- Don't eat raw or undercooked eggs and meat.
- Store food properly to prevent spoiling -- or buy only what you can use right away.

Getting stronge



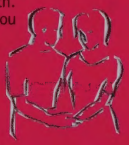
Even very mild exercise can build muscle and keep weight on. It can help you improve your appetite, and can help you feel better about yourself.

Ask your doctor about the kinds of exercise that would be safe for you. He or she may recommend ideas like these:

- Walking is natural and easy -- no special equipment needed!
- Strengthen your arms and upper body by exercising while holding a book in each hand.
- Climb stairs to strengthen your legs.

You're fighting to win

You'll be surprised how making simple changes in your diet can help you have more energy and strength. You may also find that you feel more confident about making other positive changes -- like quitting smoking or cutting back on alcohol.



Ask your healthcare team for other ways you can play an active role in helping your body fight against HIV. You're on the right track!

Each section in this special series is designed to help you understand a different part of the HIV story -- and how you fit into it.

CARING FOR YOURSELF AT HOME

Day-to-day living with HIV

HIV affects your body's ability to fight off (and recover from) different illnesses. For this reason, people who are living with HIV have to learn to take good care of themselves. This section talks about some of the most common problems that can occur, and will help you learn the danger signs that tell you it's time to call for help.

What is a symptom?

A symptom is a warning sign, like a cough or a fever. It's your body's way of saying, "Pay attention!" Many symptoms will be related to HIV disease. But some may be related to other illnesses -- or even to the side effects of the drugs you are taking.

Don't try to guess about or ignore a symptom. It's better to call your doctor on a false alarm than to ignore a growing emergency. Ask yourself these six questions; they'll help you describe your symptoms to your doctor.

Coughing can be good if it helps get mucus and fluid out of your lungs. But watch for a cough that feels or sounds different than usual, or one that keeps you from eating or sleeping. Tell your doctor if you cough up mucus that is yellow or green or has blood in it.

What to do about a cough:

- Use cough medicine suggested or prescribed by a healthcare provider.
- Moisten the air to make breathing easier. You can sit in a steamy bathroom, or simply put a pan of water in the room.
- Suck on hard candy or cough drops to moisten your mouth and throat.
- Try to get up and walk around to keep your lungs clear of fluid.

A fever is a body temperature of 101 degrees F or more. The symptoms of a fever include feeling hot, of course, but they can also include sudden chills, sweating, and aches in the muscles and joints.

What to do about a fever:

- Try to rest or sleep.
- Drink lots of liquids like water, juice, or ginger ale (no caffeine).
- Stay covered with a light blanket or a sheet (if chills begin, add more covers).
- Take a lukewarm (not cold) bath or a sponge bath.
- Call your healthcare provider when: The fever has been over 101 degrees F for more than 24 hours.

Fatigue

Some people with HIV notice that they have less energy and strength. A person with fatigue may seem not to care about things, or may be sleepy all the time. Fatigue can be caused by exercise, poor nutrition, lack of oxygen in the blood, side effects of drugs, or depression.

What to do about fatigue:

- Find the cause of the fatigue and learn how to prevent it.
- Try to provide a restful, quiet setting.
- Plan for rest periods and naps throughout the day.
- Save energy for important tasks.
- Ask for help with household chores.

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BLACK WOMEN: THE NEW FACE OF HIV/AIDS

The HIV/AIDS epidemic has taken an increasing toll on women. Nationally, the percent of women diagnosed with AIDS nearly tripled between 1986 and 2001. Women of color, particularly Non-Hispanic (NH) Black women, have been especially hard hit and represent the majority of new infections among women. Many women with HIV are low-income and most have important family responsibilities, potentially complicating the management of their illness. Research suggests that many women with HIV face limited access to the health care system and experience disparities in the receipt of care and treatment relative to men.

The fact that married men have been sleeping with other men and then returning home to their wives is nothing new. This has been going on for years. However, today, many of these men are having unprotected sex with other men and also having unprotected sex with their wives.

Despite declines in overall AIDS diagnoses, the number of female AIDS cases has actually increased. During 1991-1992, 420 women were diagnosed with AIDS, accounting for 13% of all AIDS cases. By 2001-2002, 470 women were diagnosed with AIDS, accounting for 24% of all AIDS diagnoses in that time period. C In addition to the increasing rate of reported AIDS cases among women, numbers clearly show that women are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS mortality. While every demographic group experienced a significant decline in AIDS-related mortality due to effective anti-retroviral therapies, declines were much smaller for women than they were for men.

64%

by the numbers by the numbers by the numbers by the

African-American women account for nearly 64% of HIV cases reported among women in 2001.

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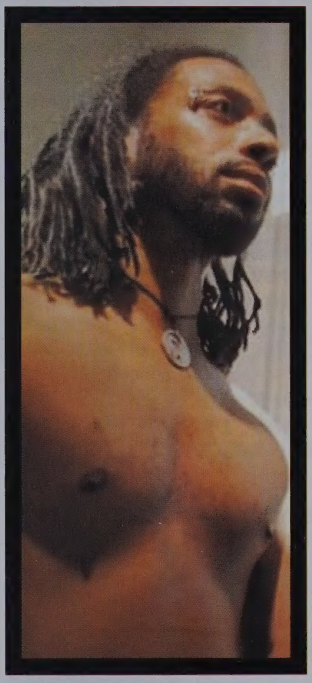
By: Kalid

REFLECTIONS: TESTING HIV POSITIVE, WAS NOT THE END OF MY WORLD; JUST A FRESH START



As I exited the clinic's inner sanctum, a strange sensation crept over me. An indescribable feeling of displacement, a sense of vertigo as reality itself appeared to wrap and bend around me. The disturbance seemed to emanate from the words I'd just heard spoken from within the hospital's walls. As I cautiously approached the outer world, the sense of dislocation intensified with each step. So this was to be the tomb of the imperfect rasta; Khalid himself - beatified here as the martyr and catalyst of a hustlers crusade.

I was reminded of my journey as a fledgling prostitute - how absolute blood lust had coerced me to travel back nightly into the streets, selling life; seed, thus igniting a genocidal hatred of my own flesh and spirit. And now I faced the source of displacement, laid out like an unholy relic, and broken apparently in my battle between spirit and flesh. I had not thought such a thing was possible ... until the words were spoken and the blade was shattered against me, threatening to strike me down ... "Your test results came back POSITIVE!"

Thus the captive spirit inhabiting one of those thousands of nameless faces was released and binding itself to me, became my symbiotic weapon ... I became poison.

I stepped out into the world, and for the first time, I felt the true presence of this other entity - willful, ravenous, and deranged from thousands of years of imprisonment. HIV was now in command - and I, now merely it's helpless host, felt my soul being leeched to restore it's impurity.

But HIV new better than to destroy it's host - and just as I neared the brink of oblivion, it released its hold on me ... deciding to lie in wait.

Several years later, as I recovered, I realized we were now bound together in a fragile alliance. HIV no longer merely my symbiotic weapon, but a sentient parasite, competing for control.

I may no longer be the man I once was - but I can re-embrace the essence of my humanity and the nobility of my soul's desire. Do what I have to do and join the fight - end this plague. All great movements require a sacrifice.

My sacrifice now is my belief system. I was already an adept, however, but because of HIV, I am learning that there are two ways of knowing, two ways of experiencing the world. I step into the past and take on the knowledge of my ancestors. As above, so below. What powerful words. They attract, they repel, they frighten. They fascinate. It's the way of my mother, my grandmother, her mother, her parents, both mother and father; forever before, as I am today. Before HIV, I could never have fathomed the true power of knowledge. To know the future; to see its paths streaming out into the infinite. HIV has become my saving grace. And as such, am I not, are we not,indivisible?
I now know, that if a single one of us stands, we are alegion. I've been awakened.

"I was reminded of my journey as a fledgling prostitute - how absolute blood lust had coerced me to travel back nightly into the streets, selling life; seed, thus igniting a genocidal hatred of my own flesh and spirit"

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HIV/AIDS:
CHURCHES RESPOND

As Black churchs took their own sweet time in responding to the AIDS crisis, thousands of their own parrishoners lost stugling battles with HIV/AIDS.

They insisted that AIDS did not affect good God fearing Christians and was a disease that inflicted only homosexuals. However, there were a few churches that saw the epidemic as their problem from its onset but support for churches such as these were not forth coming. The Balm In Gilead was one such church which was an early pioneer in caring for people with AIDS.

The main focus of the Balm In Gliead HIV testing, prevention and care program is to assist people affected by the disease maintain as normal a life as possible. The program, which has been in existence for over 15 years, is one of the forerunners in the struggle against HIV and AIDS.

Located at 130 W. 42nd Street in Manhattan, the program serves hundreds of clients daily. Providing healthcare needs, food and clothing; they are very proud of the strides they have made over the years.

A large part of the work they do at Balm In Gilead is to mobilize other churches to get involved in the AIDS ministry. For many years, the Black church was in denial about the true impact of HIV on the church population. Ministers of music were dying from cancer never HIV.

According to Alberta Ware, Director

CHURCH CONTINUES ON PAGE 19

Louis Vuitton Wallet $200
Kenneth Cole Shoes $185
Night Out with "The Boys" $80
Being Yourself: Priceless
GYM Guiding Young Men
GYM Outreach Center, "A home away from home", provides G/B/T males with an open minded environment to be "Priceless".
HACS
"Bringing Communities Promise For the Future"
713/528-5667
HOUSTON AREA HACS COMMUNITY SERVICES

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of Church and Community mobilization, Balm In Gilead, "I would ask ministers why they were refusing to get involved and start their own AIDS ministries, and they would say, The disease does not affect my congregation. So I had to ask how many members do you have? Then they would say 10,000 or 15,000 and my response to that would be, then your congregation has been affected by the disease."

She further went on to say, "over the last three years we have seen a tripling of the Black Church's involvement in the AIDS crisis. We suggested to the ministers that they do an alter call and not ask for people to come out about their HIV status, but ask that anyone affected by the disease come forward for prayer."

Being affected does not mean that you are positive. Your mother, your sister, your brother, your lover could be, hence you are affected by the disease, not infected.

Various ministers called back the Balm In Gilead offices to thank them for the suggestion, as the numbers of affected members was unbelievable.

> **"Jesus healed the leper and spent time with the harlot. The church should be a place of compassion and love, a place to worship and not be judged."**
>
> — Alberta Ware, Director of Church and Community mobilization, Balm In Gilead

Ware said she told them to lay aside their theological stance and go to Jesus. Jesus healed the leper and spent time with the harlot. The church should be a place of compassion and love, a place to worship and not be judged.

The Balm in Gilead is not the only church that has responded fervently to the AIDS epidemic. Joe Ratliff over at Brentwood Baptist Church in Houston, TX has an amazing program going on which includes housing. The neighbors went to court to get the plans for the building of the hospice ended. Ratliff went to bat for the people, stood his ground and today is providing a much-needed service in the city of Houston.

Ken Samuels in Atlanta, GA over at Victory Baptist church has an exceptional program as well. His church has been picketed by the religious right for comments he made about Mathew Shepard and HIV awareness from the pulpit. "They came all the way from Ohio to Atlanta to protest against Victory church," he said.

Let us not forget Reverend Meredith over at The Tabernacle Baptist Church of Love and Acceptance in mid town, Atlanta where the compassion is unimaginable. At Tabernacle not only do they provide care and love, but all are welcomed and by that we mean all.

The Black church still has a long way to go in the HIV/AIDS struggle, but they have certainly come a long way. Today some of them are even distributing condoms. The religious right remains vigilant in its fight against those doing service for the gay plague, as they still want to call it. But the black church is losing too many of its constituents to rest on its laurels any longer.

Religious Resources:

UNITY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH (UFC)
www.ufc-usa.org
Gay and Lesbian focused network of Black churches offers community support and outreach ministries

AIDS NATIONAL INTERFAITH NETWORK (ANIN)
www.aidsfaith.com.
Offers a list of religious groups nationwide that support HIVers.

THE BALM IN GILEAD
888.225.6243 — www.balmingilead.org
Supports and educates Black churches about HIV. Website has programs, forums, resources and more

1 IN 50 by the numbers by the numbers by the numbers by the

In the U.S., one in 50 Black men and one in 160 Black women is HIV-positive.

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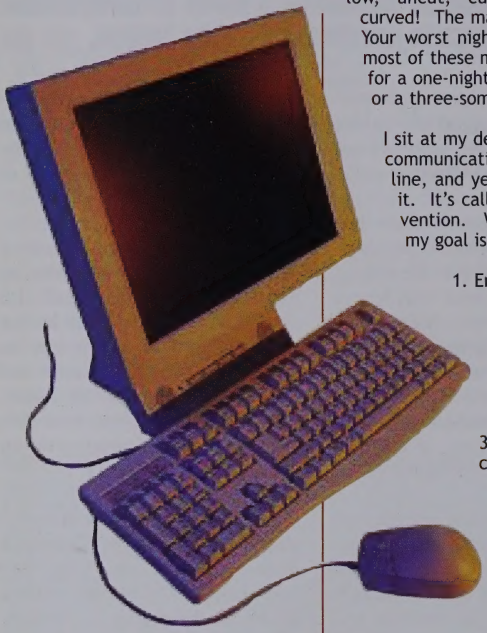
HIV/AIDS INTERVENTION
GETTING CAUGHT IN THE NET



The internet is providing a new wave of communication to the world. Sign on and you can access a variety of things to do such as shopping, gambling, education, travel reservations and yes, even sex. Today, there are literally thousands of chat-rooms that individuals surf in an attempt to connect with someone for a night of sex.

This avenue of hooking up is very popular in gay culture. Some of the most popular sites for African American men who have sex with other men are Adam-4-Adam, Men for Now, Black Planet. Go to any one of these sites and you can access photos and personal profiles of African American men who have sex with men (MSM), and are looking to make a sexual connection on-line. Openly gay, down-low, bi-sexual, bi-curious, questioning, you name it, you'll find it on the net. Tall, short, muscles, slim! Masculine, queen, thug, fem, drag-queen, etc.! Hung low, uncut, cut, thick, skinny, curved! The man of your dreams! Your worst nightmare! Many and most of these men are advertising for a one-night stand, sex parties or a three-some.

I sit at my desk on a daily basis communicating with guys on line, and yes, I get paid to do it. It's called chat-line intervention. When I am on line my goal is to—

1. Encourage people to be safer in their sexual activity;
2. Get our target audience to get tested and know their status;
3. Invite guys to come to the Drop-In Center for one of our YMSM Task Force meetings or interventions.

When online I do get the "What do you all do there?" question. I also often get asked if I am gay. I have found that a guy will put up a wall if I invite him to stop by a HIV/AIDS agency too soon in the conversation. This happens normally because some guys online aren't out to their families, at work or at school and are afraid that someone they know will see them and drop the dime on them. Others have bought into the false rhetoric that the Drop-In Center is for people who are HIV+ and they don't want anyone to think that they are positive. In an effort to take away the mystery created by the net, I encourage guys to call me at the Drop-In Center. I have found that if I can get them to call I can usually talk to them long enough to convince them to stop by for a visit.

Two questions come to my mind while I am providing chat-line intervention. First, are these anonymous hook-ups a primary reason for the rise in HIV infection in the African American Gay community, particularly males between the ages of 13 and 24?

I encounter young men daily who frequently participate in sexual encounters with men they hook up with on the net. These young men say "yes" to all of the right questions. "Yes", I use condoms every time I am the insertive partner in anal sex. "Yes" I use condoms every time I am the receptive partner in anal sex. If unprotected anal penetration is the most likely way that HIV is transmitted during male to male sex, and if so many people are indeed using condoms "every time", then why do the rates of infection among African American MSM continue to rise? Is somebody not telling the truth?

Secondly, is this net that many are getting caught up in setting the stage for the de-socialization of our Black men who love Black men? Even when one hits the club scene for the sole purpose of hooking up, there is a need for some conversation. You can count the times that you have made a connection with a fine brother and found yourself trying to scream louder than the music and the crowd and while trying to give off that "come hither" voice. Words had to be exchanged. A conversation had to take place. You didn't just knock him in the head and drag him off to the back seat of your car and have your way with him.

Call me old fashioned, but doesn't the net take away the opportunity and the need for conversation. When on line we type just enough to communicate how we want to get it, the meeting place and we make a mad dash for the car. Once we see him and the cakes look just like the ones in his picture on line there is not much talking. Not even a question about HIV status. We just get busy! No questions asked. No real names, just screen names. Oh, "Slimsexiboi!" Give it to me "Hunglikamonsta!"
Sure I sound a bit sarcastic, however, I need you to get the point. Let's not let conversation be an ancient art in our lives. If we see him in the store

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the next day we should at least be able to introduce him to our friends by his real name and not his screen name or the size of his piece. The less we converse, the less we know. The less we know the more likely we are to experience trouble in the future because of a one night stand in our past. And brothers, its time out for us not knowing enough about the men who are bending us over or bootin' it up to us.

Seamen go out daily and drop their nets and lines into bodies of water that are teeming with the daily special. The haunting thing for the creature caught in the net is the reality of impending death. Don't get caught up in the net! Think and act wisely and responsibly. Getting caught up in the net could cost you your life.

ResourcesResourcesResources

Are You In Need Of Support or Treatment. Help is just a phone call or a click away.

Community Based Organizations At Work For You

ATLANTA, GA.

National AIDS Education Services For Minorities
www.naesmonline.org
404.691.8880
2140 Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr

CHICAGO, IL

South Side Help Center
www.southsidehelp.org
773-684-5711
10420 S Halsted Street

CLEVELAND, OH.

AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland
www.atfgc.org
216-621-0766
2728 Euclid Ave, Ste 400

DALLAS, TX.

Renaissance III
www.renaissance3.com
214-428-6227
2606 Martin Luther King Blvd

DETROIT, MI

Men of Color, INC.
313-543-7000
21543 Grand River

HOUSTON, TX.

Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation
713-526-1379
4900 Fannin

Houston Area Community Services
3730 Kirby Drive Suite 820
713-526-0555

MEMPHIS, TN

New Directions, Inc
901-346-5497
4466 Elvis Presley Blvd, Suite 310

MIAMI, FL

Care Resourse
www.careresource.org
305-576-1234
3510 Biscayne Blvd Ste 300

South Beach AIDS Project
www.sobeaids.org
305-532-1033
306 Lincoln Road,Sobe

Village South
www.villagesouth.com
(305) 573-DRUG
3180 Biscayne Boulevard

NASHVILLE, TN

Nashville Cares
www.nashvillecares.org
615-259-4866
209 10th Ave South, Ste 160

NEW ORLEANS, LA

Brotherhood Inc.
www.brotherhoodinc.org
504-566-7955
1661 Canal St. #3230

NEW YORK, NY

Gay Men Of African Descent (GMAD)
www.gmad.org
212-828-1697
103 E. 125th StreetSuite 503

People of Color In Crisis
www.pocc.org
718-857-5900
468 Bergen Street, Brooklyn

ORLANDO, FL

Miracle Of Love
www.miracleofloveinc.org
407-445-6008
1800 Mercy Drive, #300

ST. LOUIS, MO

REACH, St. Louis Inc.
216-621-0766
625 N Euclid Ave

WASHINGTON, DC

Us Helping Us
www.ushelpingus.com
202-546-8200
811 L Street, SE

Now That I KNOW

"I am HIV negative and I plan on remaining that way.

Even if I was infected, I know that help is just around the corner. With the many advances in the fight against AIDS, I know that there are life sustaining drugs that's allowing HIV+ individuals to maintain longer, healthy lives.

So many people my age are taking chances with their lives. ***Knowing my status gives me peace of mind.***"

Darius, Dallas TX.

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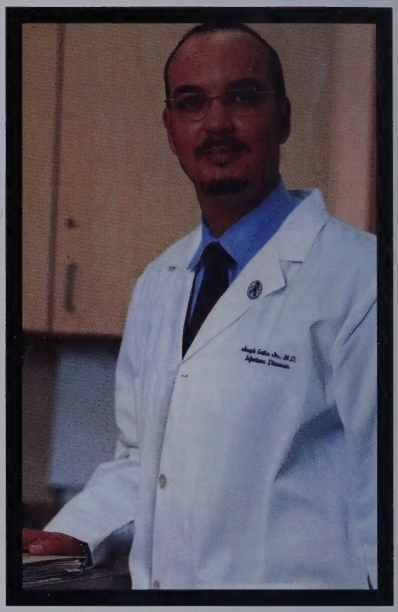
AIDS: IN SEARCH OF A CURE

Dr. Joseph C. Gathe, Jr., M.D., F.A.C.P

Physician – Public Servant – Humanitarian



Dr. Joseph C. Gathe, Jr., is a quintessential public servant and humanitarian. As the medical director of the Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation, Dr. Joseph C. Gathe, Jr., heads a dedicated team of tireless doctors and medical professional committed to advancing the honorable goals and objectives of the foundation.

It became apparent early in his medical career that Dr. Joseph C.Gathe, Jr. possessed an untiring and investigative nature, coupled with a driving desire to seek answers and search for truths that related to and impacted the human health condition.

It was through this visionary exploratory spectrum that researcher and scientist within Dr. Gathe truly manifested itself through his quest to unlock the mysteries of infectious diseases.

Dr. Joseph C. Gathe, Jr., thus became intensely focused on treating the illnesses and effects caused by the multiplicity of infectious disease rampant within our communities.

And for his astounding commitment and dedication to his medical mission, Dr. Gathe's professionalism, persistence and critical subject knowledge was duly noted resulting in his bestowment of numerous honors, awards and professional recognitions for his research, study and service.

He has successfully completed a fellowship in Infectious Disease at Baylor College of Medicine and The Methodist Hospital, and is Board Certified in Infectious Disease and Internal Medicine.

A Diplomat of the American Board of Internal Medicine, a fellow in the American College of Physicians, and a Fellow in the Infectious Disease Society of America, Dr. Gathe Currently serves as a Clinical Instructor for the Department of Internal Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine and is the Chief of Infectious Disease for Park Plaza Hospital of Houston.

In the late 1990's, Dr. Joseph C. Gathe, Jr. met a patient who would have a profound and eye-opening impact on his medical career. Dr. Donald R. Watkins, an influential and well-known community leader, spiritual leader and noted psychologist, who held a Bachelors Degree in Chemistry from the University of Texas at Arlington and both Masters and Doctorate Degree in Psychology from the University of Texas at Austin came to Dr. Gate diagnosed with the virus that causes AIDS.

It was through meeting Dr. Watkins and while treating him for the disease that Dr. Gathe Came to further commit to investing the HIV/AIDS phenomenon with an urgency to work towards its eradication.

As a direct result of this doctor/patient relationship and following the death of Dr. Donald R. Watkins who while ill faced the stigma of inadequate primary care services, the Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation was established with a mandate and charge of providing superior medical services to people regardless of ethnic or financial background at risk for living with HIV/AIDS.

After years of intense and revealing research, the fruits of his labor began to manifest itself in critical revelations and discoveries, resulting in invaluable contributions and finding which is paving the way for possible future of HIV/AIDS eradication.

As a researcher and scientists, Dr. Gathe is Principal or Co-Investigator for nearly 100 protocols focused on improving the status of people living with HIV. He has published extensively on HIV/AIDS topics in numerous respected medical and professional journals such as, AIDS, JOURNAL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE, ANNALS OF INTERNAL MEDICINE, JOURNAL OF ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROMES and THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF MEDICINE. Dr. Gathe has also Authored 68 articles in many peer review publications.

In the areas of medicinal and pharmaceutical applications and treatments, Dr, Gathe has accomplished three of the world's firsts: In 1991 Tetracycline Derivatives as effective treatment for CNS Toxoplasmosis; In 199 the first effective treatment for Crytosporidiosis; and In 2004 was the first to conduct a single drug proof of the safety and efficiency of Kaletra as single drug HAART in+ARV naïve patients.

Now serving communities on global scale, Dr. Joseph C. Gathe Jr., has emerged as a time-tested, fully-committed, knowledgeably-engaged authority on infectious disease and more specifically the growing epidemic of HIV/AIDS.

His authoritative views, opinions, findings and input are frequently sought far and wide from Houston, Texas to Washington, DC TO Singapore to Africa, and Dr. Gathe continues to step forward dutifully in services to mankind with tireless vigor an unwavering commitment to producing positive health outcomes.

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HIV TESTING OPTIONS

There are several HIV antibody tests being used today.
All testing options are not available in all areas. Contact your local health department for the tests available in your area.

1. **STANDARD BLOOD TEST:** This was the first HIV antibody test developed and made available, and is the most widely used. With this test, an initial assay is used (the ELISA), and confirmed using a more specific test (the Western Blot).

2. **ORAL MUCOSAL TRANSUDATE TEST:** This test, an alternative to the standard blood test, uses a specially treated pad placed in a person's mouth, and gently rubbed between the lower cheek and gum. The pad collects an oral fluid called oral mucosal transudate (OMT). This fluid contains HIV antibodies in an HIV- infected person. This test does not test for HIV in saliva.

3. **URINE HIV ANTIBODY TEST:** The urine HIV-1 testing method is a painless, non-evasive option for getting an HIV antibody test. This test uses the urine EIA (ELISA) and urine Western Blot technique to detect HIV antibodies, and is FDA – licensed as an alternative to the blood test system. This test eliminates accidental needle sticks and exposure-related dangers, protecting the patient and healthcare worker.

4. **RAPID HIV ANTIBODY TESTS:** Where the standard HIV antibody testing procedure requires up to two weeks for results, the rapid test gives results in 5-60 minutes. Currently approved rapid HIV tests only test with blood. Other rapid HIV testing methods are in development. To perform the test, a fingerstick sample of blood is collected from an individual and transferred to a vial where it is mixed with a developing solution.The test device, which resembles a dipstick, is then inserted into the vial. In as little as 20 minutes, the test device will indicate if HIV-1 antibodies are present in the solution. Although the results of rapid screenings will be reported in point-of-care settings, as with all screening tests for HIV, if the OraQuick test gives a reactive test result, that result must be confirmed with an additional specific test.The OraQuick test has not been approved to screen blood donors.

5. **HOME TESTING KIT:** This do-it-yourself test kit uses the same technology as the standard blood test. Individual blood samples are collected at home, and mailed to a laboratory.Test results are provided over the telephone. The serum
home testing kit costs between $30 and $45, and is available at many drug stores. Currently there is only one FDA approved home sample collection kit. Home HIV tests for other fluids are in development.

For more information about testing options in your area, contact you local health department or the National STD/HIV/AIDS hotline (1-800-342-2437). **The only way to know if you are infected with HIV is by taking an HIV antibody test.**

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REAL PEOPLE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS

Gary English
Executive Director
People of Color In Crisis
Brooklyn, NY

I chose to be involved

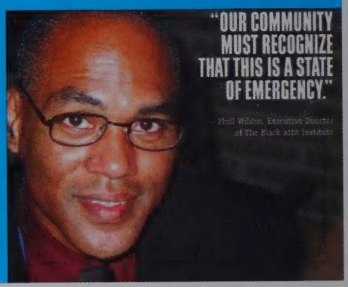
in a Black gay HIV prevention agency because I saw the need to make sure that Black gay men in NY and throughout the country are aware of their HIV status and connected to medical care and services. I feel it's imperative that the Black LGBT community's rights are intact so that we can have a mechanism for fighting racism, homophobia, and sexism in the greater community. Being the Executive Director of POCC, I will make sure that the Black LGBT community's voices are heard. We're not invisible. We want to be recognized.

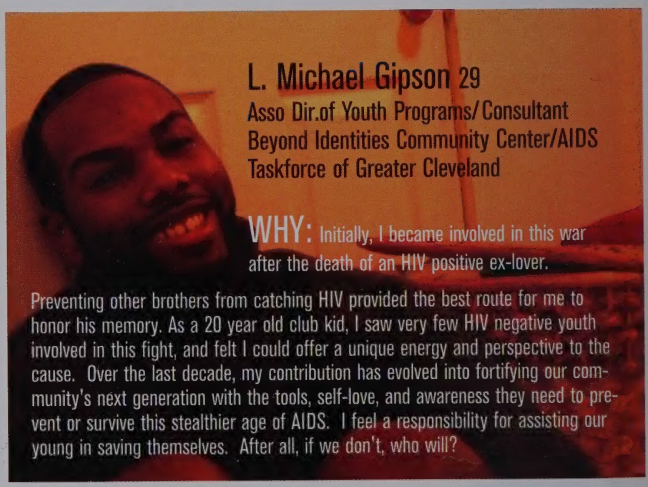
Phill Wilson 48
Executive Director
Black AIDS Institute
Los Angeles, CA

"The lives of Black men are priceless and must be saved"

In The Fight Since Because:

I'm a Black Gay man living with AIDS in America and there is a killer loose in my family. Doing my part to stop the dying is exactly what I'm supposed to be doing. Anything less would be unacceptable. When I was a little boy, my parents would tell me that we were a family and the only way for a family to survive was for everyone to do their part. We are all a part of a global family. And through technology, travel and disease, our family gets closer every day. AIDS is attacking our family. Too many of us have died. Too many of us are sick. Too many of us are infected and don't know it. Too many of us are in denial. I've been visiting hospital rooms, sitting by dying beds, and delivering eulogies for over 20 years. I'm in the struggle because the struggle is not over. I'm in the struggle because Craig, Rory, Joe, Donald, Reggie, Chris, Assotto, Marlon, Essex, Keith, Charles, Roger and all the names I've forgotten over the years mattered.


"OUR COMMUNITY MUST RECOGNIZE THAT THIS IS A STATE OF EMERGENCY."
Phill Wilson, Executive Director of The Black AIDS Institute



L. Michael Gipson 29
Asso Dir.of Youth Programs/Consultant
Beyond Identities Community Center/AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland

WHY: Initially, I became involved in this war after the death of an HIV positive ex-lover.

Preventing other brothers from catching HIV provided the best route for me to honor his memory. As a 20 year old club kid, I saw very few HIV negative youth involved in this fight, and felt I could offer a unique energy and perspective to the cause. Over the last decade, my contribution has evolved into fortifying our community's next generation with the tools, self-love, and awareness they need to prevent or survive this stealthier age of AIDS. I feel a responsibility for assisting our young in saving themselves. After all, if we don't, who will?

No. 1

by the numbers by the numbers by the numbers by the

HIV/AIDS is the numer once cause of death for African Americans between the age of 25 — 44.

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What Have We Learned As Black Gay Men?

By Rudy Carn, Executive Director/CEO
National AIDS Education & Services for Minorities, Inc. (NAESM)

Since the beginning of the AIDS epidemic Black gay men have been dying quietly with nobody to call. Black gay men were shunned by their families and friends for living with AIDS. It was the shattering stories of how toxic the meds were and that the medical professionals and health-care providers did not fully understand the disease. Here we are two decades later. Black gay men are still dying and becoming infected at alarming rates. We must ask ourselves, "What have we learned?"

Many of us felt the need to go further than asking health officials for answers. We made ourselves a part of the solution. We rolled up our sleeves and began to fight HIV/AIDS. We felt that Black gay men were better prepared to help Black gay men than any ethnic group or gender. No one knew the depth and breath of Black gay men's feelings better than men who had walked the same path and faced the same obstacles and rejection. We were brothers by more than genes and physical characteristics. We were brothers because the spirits of brothers who led the fight two decades ago connected our souls. We promised them we would not give up nor would we give in to the pressures inside or outside.

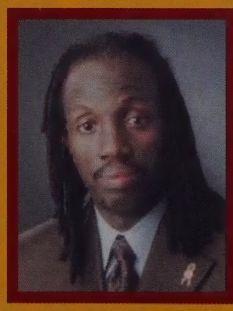
What have we learned as Black gay men? I believe some of us have gotten stronger and wiser in the fight against the epidemic of HIV/AIDS. We learned from our past. We know now that some of the choices needed to change if we were going to remain uninfected or live a strong and healthy life with HIV/AIDS.

We learned that we needed to educate and re-educate brothers about their long term choices. We had to lead by example whether we wanted to or not. We had to show some brothers the difference one day could make. It could make the difference between putting on a condom and taking twenty pills a day.

I wish I could say we learned to fight the system without fighting each other. We could have all done better. We sometimes allowed our passion to overshadow our need to get along with each other. In my younger days, I was outspoken and sometimes arrogant at any cost. I didn't weigh the consequences. I pushed my way through the red tape to get around the obstacles because brothers were dying. I felt I was racing against the windstorm. When I look back and when you look back, we all must examine the sole purpose of the organizations that we gave birth to. Did we create these agencies in the spirit of love or in the spirit of competition? We know by experience that the AIDS Service community is competitive and sometimes cutthroat. But let us not forget that the true mission is not the castles we build here on earth but the brothers we save and protect from HIV/AIDS. Whether we feel the urge that we are racing against a clock or sick and tired of the statistics going up and going down and up again. There is still a need to treat each other with love, respect and dignity.

There is an African proverb that says, "When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion." In my own words, when Black gay men unite, we can overcome the odds. We can overcome the dissension that overshadows our voices in a room. We can rise above the criticism that lingers in the air. We can even run faster if we learn to pass the baton of leadership to brothers whose legs are stronger and muscles are bigger. The baton could be technical assistance to the ASO with only two staff and no money. I remember those days when I wondered how I was going to make payroll. Those days were not easy. They caused sleepless nights and fatigue. On a positive note, the rough spots make us ready for the bend in the road. Most of us face the unknown, every year when we race against the clock to submit grants and continuation applications. We know that our agencies cannot remain effective if we lose major funding. So, we ready ourselves for the next bend in the road. Sometimes, we have to wait for the answer and for the next leader to be prepared.

The cure for AIDS may come long after my life and your life. But the fact still remains, we hope for a cure for AIDS. When it is all said and done, we want to leave a legacy that says, **"Black gay men united and their voices and deeds crippled the affects of HIV/AIDS. They stood ready for a cure and ready to continue the fight."**



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Young Men: SAVING MEN

Jason, an African-American 16 year old sophmore at a Houston high school, has a secret. A secret that he's afraid to dicsuss with his friends and certainly not his family. "From as long as I can remember, I've always been attracted to other boys, but I don't see myself as being gay or anything like that," explains Jason. Yes, this is Jason's secret, he likes boys. I met him infront of a nightclub, shortly after being refused admission for attempting to gain admission with his 19-yearold brother driver's license. "Don't worry young man, you'll have your turn, and hopefully you'll be more aware off your surroundings", I said as I give him some outreach HIV prevention information. One day Jamal will learn that the bouncer at the club was really doing him a big favor. There are many things that Jamal doesn't know about the crowd of men he had hoped to party with that night. One thing in particular, is that 1 out of 3 of the guys in there are HIV positive.

— — *Outreachworker @ YMSM, Houston*

Over the past few years the CDC and many local community base organizations (CBOs) have noticed a sharp rise in the rate of HIV infections of young men between the age of 14-22. Young men such as Jamal are 4 times more likey to contract the disease that their white friends. As a result, the Federal Government, CDC and various city health departments have channeled funds to help young men such as Jamal remain HIV free. Recently, we spoke with Dr. George Smith, Executive Director at the Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation in Houston, Texas, who oversees Young Men Saving Men , a youth program at the agency. Here's what we learned about his agency, himself, and the people that his agency serves.

CM: Who was Donald R. Watkins?

Dr. Smith: Dr. Donald R. Watkins was a community activist, a

WHY DO I CARE?

James Broussard
Community Outreach/Communications Specialist
I am a Black gay man, and I have a lot of love for Black gay men. A huge reason that I love my job is the simple fact that I get the opportunity to meet, help, support, and educate other Black gay, bisexual, MSM individuals. I am now in charge of all interventions, workshops, support groups, and focus groups that YMSM-Houston facilitates, as well as all media/communications programs. I love what I do because I get the chance to see firsthand the impact that I make in the lives of others. I feel good about that! The irony of this is that the people I work with help me grow, mature, and develop more than they will ever know.

Mack Davis
Project Coordinator
Prevention Case Management is more than just a word. Working as the Drop-In Center Prevention Case Manager fills my life with meaning because I know that with each day I have educated a young brother and helped him to understand the importance of protecting himself against HIV and other STD's. I also love having the opportunity to work with young men who are HIV+. I like to believe that what I do as PCM gives them a more positive outlook on life. It gives me great joy to communicate to a young Black man who is HIV+ that being infected does not mean the road has ended. You can overcome the obstacle and live a full and productive life.

Darrell Colone, Data Management Coordinator
I love doing what I do because I have a heart for helping people. Working at the Drop-In Center gives me the opportunity to help my young brothers make choices that lead to healthy and prosperous lives.

W. Jeffrey Campbell
Project Coordinator
For most of my life I have always loved to motivate positive change in the lives of others. I get very excited watching monumental changes occur instantaneously as well as change that occurs in little steps. Working at the Drop-In Center gives me the opportunity to plant seeds in the lives of young African American MSM that will hopefully move them to make better decisions regarding their bodies, minds and spirits.

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preacher, counselor, a Kappa, a son, and a catalyst, who was diagnosed with HIV, and had a hard time finding a doctor to care for him until meeting Dr. Joseph Gathe.

CM: What services does the Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation offer?
Dr. Smith: Primary care, case management, testing, counseling, preventative case management, rental, mortgage and utility assistance, as well as programmatic efforts for Young men who have sex with men.

CM: What population does the Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation serve?
Dr. Smith: Here at the DRWMF we serve all populations. Men, women, Black, White, Asian, young and elderly.... Everyone.

CM: What is the Young Men Saving Men (YMSM) Program About?

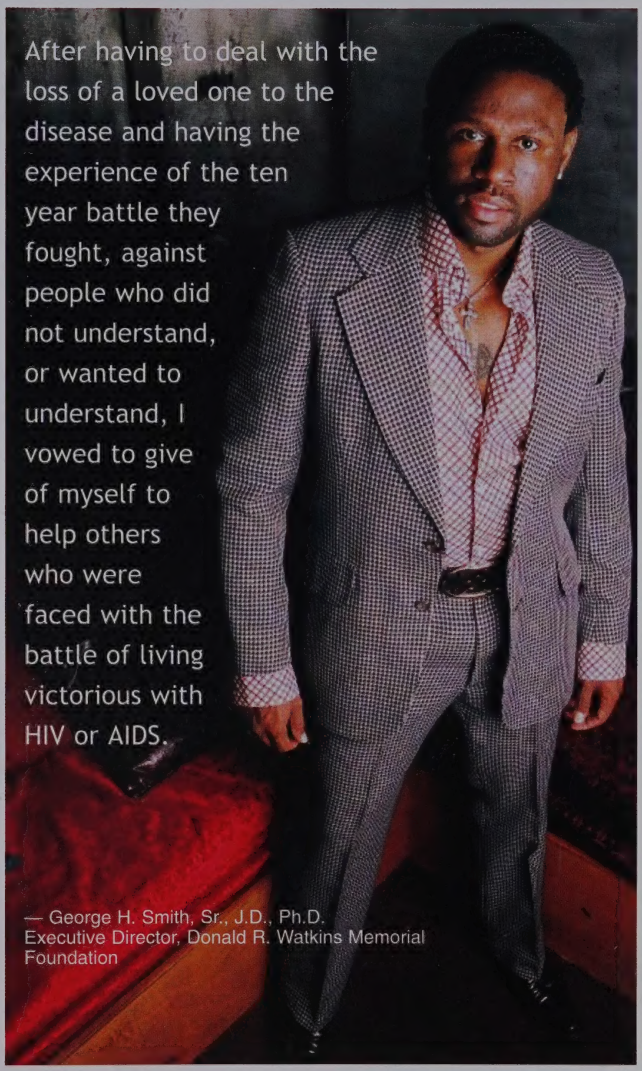
Dr. Smith: A project for young men between the ages of 13-24 who have sex with men. It a place where we provide them an opportunity to voice their concerns, get free HIV/STD counseling and testing, safer sex education, peer Counseling, risk reduction education, referral services, depression counseling, self-esteem development, drug and alcohol awareness, prevention case management, leadership training, and social and Recreational Activities

CM: How effective is the YMSM program?

Dr. Smith: The YMSM program is very effective for the African American Community. The program serves a need that is often neglected by the main stream society. I am very proud of the staff of gentlemen who run the day to day operations.

CM: What are some of the barriers of the project?

Dr. Smith: The stigma of homosexuality. Most African American men who have sex with men do not identify themselves as gay or bi sexual.


After having to deal with the loss of a loved one to the disease and having the experience of the ten year battle they fought, against people who did not understand, or wanted to understand, I vowed to give of myself to help others who were faced with the battle of living victorious with HIV or AIDS.
— George H. Smith, Sr., J.D., Ph.D.
Executive Director, Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation

CM: What is it that you and your staff are doing to get young people involved in your program. How do you get them to visit the drop in center?

Dr. Smith: The staff and I provide program for the youth that are designed by the youth. We serve as a refiner. We have a youth task force that meet monthly and discuss what are the needs of their population. These needs are coveyed and then as staff we refined them to meet the reqiurements of our funding source. The youth visit the drop in Center often because we maintain a professional but festive environment. There is allways something goin on in the Center.

DR. SMITH CONTINUES ON PAGE 28

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DR. SMITH CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

CM: And you have since transitioned into Executive Director. What exactly does an Executive Director of an organization such as yours do?

Dr. Smith: The Executive Director oversees the entire operations of an organization. I am responsible for managing several million dollars in grant monies, supervising all staff and being responsible for all programs, as well as developing new funding streams.

CM: What is your educational background?

Dr. Smith: I received My BBA in Marketing, MA in Sociology, Ph.D. Public Administration, and a J D.(Law)

CM: Considering that your background is in marketing and Law what made you want to do this particular service related job/career?

Dr. Smith: Having such a diverse background in Marketing Social Services, Public Administration, and Law makes for an ideal CEO. Very often Non profits do not attract the people who are at the top of the totem pole when it comes to education and experience. After having to deal with the loss of a loved one to the disease and having the experience of the ten year battle they fought, against people who did not understand, or wanted to understand, I vowed to give of myself to help others who were faced with the battle of living victorious with HIV or AIDS.

CM: Let's talk a little more about you, you are a young man running one of Houston's largest community based organizations that has a budget in the millions, what qualifies you for such a huge position?

Dr. Smith: My first response would be that none of my accolades qualify me to anything by themselves. I beleive that God has a divine plan and has ordained me to work in this field, the decisions that I make affect people's lives. This is not something to take lightly. If I am not responsible enough, intelligent enough, experienced enough, I would definitely be a diservice to the people who depend on the services that we provide. Now that we understand that it is the creator that guides our path, we need to further understand that God equips us with the neccessary tools. I am a well educated African American man. Only a small percentage of people will attain double terminal degrees and I am one of them. Obtaining a Ph.D and a Juris Doctorate by the age of 35, while holding a bachelors and Masters Degree makes me a fine

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candidate for any top key position. In addittion I have 13 years of experience in the Health Care arena, I am published, I have been a consultant for the past six years, and I own a rehabilitation clinic. Dr. Smith has paid his dues. I am proud to offer my services to African American non-profit foundation who has the world's leading doctor "Joseh C. Gathe" in the field of HIV/AIDS, and now has one premeir Executive Directors "What a Team".

CM: What is the single most rewarding aspect of your work?

Dr. Smith: Knowing that what I do has helped someone's life and has allowed them to retain their dignity.

CM: What is the least favorite part of your job?

Dr. Smith: Losing someone to the disease.

CM: What's a day in the life of Dr. George Smith like?

Dr. Smith: My day starts at 6:30A.M. I have meditation time period, maybe a quick workout, I get to my office at about 7:45-8:00A.M., Typically I am in meetings for the first part of the morning and then I will put out fires through out the day, I spend a great deal of time returning emails, doing reports to the grantors, and the Board of Directors. Typically, my day gets quiet at about 5:00pm and I then, am able to sit in my office and work on funding opportunities, type letters, budget reviews, address staffing problems, and forecast for the organization. My day ends about 7:30P.M. - 8:00P.M. Sometimes I eat lunch.

CM: If anything what would you like to change about the way your agency operates?

Dr. Smith: I think we operate just fine. Even though funding is an ever-present issue. My Medical Director takes the stance that we will not turn anyone away.

CM: A lot of agencies similar to yours are under scrutiny for misappropriations and other indemnities. How have you avoided this?

Dr. Smith: Simply do what you are commissioned to do. The work of non-profits is a special kind of work and everybody is not cut out for it. This work is rewarding, but not often financially. My agency compensates me, but in the for profit world, a professional like myself who has a Ph. D. and a JD can write his own ticket. I say that to illustrate that agencies must use the funds for what they are intended. Agencies must find people who are committed to the cause and not just looking for a paycheck.

CM: Last month, one of our writers called white gay men clueless and manipulative in wasting billions of dollars and not serving the African American community. How do you feel about this assertion?

Dr. Smith: I feel that white gay men should not be held to the task of taking care of or serving the African American Community. African Americans must elevate themselves to the levels that the white gay men have and take responsibility for their communities. We need more African American, Medical Doctors, Ph.D's, Attorneys, Lobbyists, and high level professionals to be able enter into the areas that control the dollars. We should not scream and act in the way that they would expect us, but speak the language of the professional world and maneuver ourselves to get in control or have some influence over who controls the funding. African Americans have got to stop looking to the White Society to solve all of our problems. We must get off of our behinds and mobilize. It takes everybody from the thinkers to the doers, to solve this problem.

CM: Who are some of the key players in the organization?

Dr. Smith: I could not do what I do here at Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation without the support of Dr. and Mrs. Gathe and the Board of Directors. All of the program Directors and their staff empower me to do the task that God has given me in leading this organization. A leader is only as good as those that he leads.

CM: How demanding is your career on your personal life?

Dr. Smith: Very demanding, Being single helps, but hopefully I will find someone who can understand the passion I have for my career and allow me to be me as I allow them to be themselves.

CM: If you could ask one thing of the Clikque Magazine readership what would that be?

Dr. Smith: I would ask that the readership of Clikque get tested and know their status, If you are positive seek care, If you are not positive use preventative methods to decrease risky behaviors and most of all learn how to live victorious through the power that Christ gives us.

With that, our conversation with Dr. Smith ended and he went back to the business of caring for the less fortunate in the Metropolitan Houston area stricken by HIV and AIDS.

54%

by the numbers by the numbers by the numbers by the

African Americans account for more than half (54%) of the 40,000 new HIV infections estimated to occur in the U.S. each year.4

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HIV/POLITICS:
KERRY ON HIV/AIDS

Op-Ed Clikque Magazine
by Ramon Gardenhire
Deputy Director, Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Outreach, Democratic National Committee

Mark November 2, 2004 on your calendar. It's an important date for all of America. But for same-gender loving African Americans, it could be a life-saving one.

More than any other issue, HIV/AIDS is of special concern to the same-gender loving African American community. Although African Americans make up only 12% of the overall U.S. population, we account for half of all new HIV cases. As of 2003, nearly one out of every three urban same-gender loving black men is HIV-positive. And even more troubling than that, according to the Centers for Disease Control, 90% of those infected are completely unaware of their HIV-status. We don't know we have the disease, and as such, we're not doing enough to stop it from spreading.

In the upcoming presidential election, we will have the chance to weigh in on this, the single most important issue facing our community today. Our votes will determine whether HIV/AIDS becomes a national priority for all Americans or is held hostage to a right-wing ideology for four more years.

And the choice could not be more clear.

While President Bush has weakened America's fight against AIDS by pushing abstinence-based programs over scientifically proven contraceptive methods of protection, John Kerry has been leading the fight against HIV/AIDS for over a decade. He was an original cosponsor of the 1990 "Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act" to improve the quality and availability of care for individuals and families with HIV. John Kerry was a key supporter of the Ryan White Care Act, which significantly improved health care and the quality of life for those with HIV, and in 2003, he stood up against Republican attempts to decrease funding for minority health care, including HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programs. His hard work on behalf of those in our community with HIV/AIDS has earned him a career rating of 100% from the NAACP and Human Rights Campaign.

And once we help elect John Kerry as President, he will continue to fight for us.

John Kerry plans to continue waging an all out war against HIV/AIDS and the right-wing policies that place our community in danger. He will increase Funding for the Ryan White CARE Act. He will ensure equal access for those of us living with the diseases with the Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA) program. Plus, John Kerry will protect and improve Medicaid, the largest financer of HIV/AIDS care in the United States. And John Kerry will ensure the highest level of funding for the Minority HIV/AIDS Initiative (MHAI) to combat the disproportionate prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the African American community.

John Kerry also supports the Leadership Campaign on AIDS which will help put African American and gay leaders on the front lines in our community's battle. And John Kerry will increase AIDS research funding at the National Institutes of Health, CDC and other agencies, creating incentives for public and private development of AIDS vaccines and microbicides.

We will not ensure equal treatment for those living with HIV and AIDS and we will not stop its spread until will elect a leader with the vision and commitment to help fight for our community and our lives. John Kerry is that leader and we, the same-gender loving black community of America, have the power to put him in the White House.

The choice is ours. Save the date. Save one another.

90%

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The CDC in 2003 reported that 1 in 3 urban same gender loving black ,male is HIV positive. Of this number, 90% of them are unaware of their status.

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By Scott Bogan

RELATIONSHIPS & HIV:

AT WHICH POINT DO YOU DISCLOSE YOUR STATUS?

I usually try not to judge people because I don't like to be judged. Judgment is something that should be left to God and the court system. With that being said, there are certain things that I cannot and will not excuse. I will spare you my usual list and cut right to the chase. It is inexcusable to be HIV positive and not disclose your status to anyone that you are having a sexual relationship with.

Some of the new readers may not be aware of this, but I am HIV positive and I have been since 1996. In the very first article that I wrote for CLIKQUE I disclosed my status. I decided to do this because when I tested positive it was during the time that I was watching a very close friend of mine die right before my eyes. He was dying because he never told anyone about his illness. His secrecy kept him in denial and allowed the virus to take over his body. When he finally went to the hospital, the virus was so advanced that he never came out. He died at 23. In retrospect, all of the signs were there. He was wearing turtlenecks in the summertime to cover his inflamed lymph nodes; he slept more than normal, he never had any energy, etc. We knew something was going on but we were too afraid to talk with him about it. Because of our fear and his fear, he died and I cannot help but to accept some of the blame for his death.

After his death, I struggled with understanding why he kept his status such a secret. I still don't understand this. Why is a person's status such a secret? I made a mistake. I had sex without using protection. Do people really think that I don't have sex? Or I don't make mistakes? So, I am supposed to suffer in silence? That is crazy! People that smoke and get lung cancer don't live in secrecy. Why the hell should I?

I make it my practice to disclose my status almost immediately after meeting someone that I am interested in or is interested in me. With the person that is currently in my life, I told him on the phone after talking with him for 3 hours. While he is not positive, he didn't stutter or flinch when I told him that I am. The conversation kept right on flowing. I am not saying that this is a normal reaction; it is a mature one, but not always the norm. I also am not advocating that this be everyone's practice. This is what works for me. All that I am saying is that life is about choices and people need information to make a choice. Please stop being a part of the problem and start being a part of the solution!

$$$ HIGH COST TO STAY ALIVE

Since the creation of AIDS DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (ADAPS), States have worked hard to maximize resources in order to provide medications to as many low-income and inadequately insured individuals living with HIV/AIDS as possible. In recent years, however, States have faced enormous challenges as a result of rapid growth in ADAP enrollment, the number of prescriptions per enrollee, and the cost of treatments. Much of this growth has been due to the introduction of new antiretroviral medications.

Combination antiretroviral drug therapy has proven to be highly effective in improving health, extending life and improving the quality of life for people with HIV/AIDS. As a result, the use of combination therapy and a new class of antiretroviral drugs called fusion inhibitors that add an additional $15,000 to combination therapy, have emerged as the new standard of care. However, the high cost of combination therapy-approximately $11,000 to $12,000 per patient per year excluding Fuzeon-has significantly increased pressure on ADAPs to adopt a wide variety of cost-containment strategies designed to maximize resources. These include restructuring their purchasing and distribution system, more aggressive negotiations with pharmacy benefits contractors, closer coordination with Medicaid and Medicaid waiver programs, improved data collection and tracking systems, and participation in the Section 340B Drug Discount Program.

1 IN 3

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p in a not so typical black family, I reflect upon my own youth and entree' into adulthood where, rare was the occasion that I can recall a time when either

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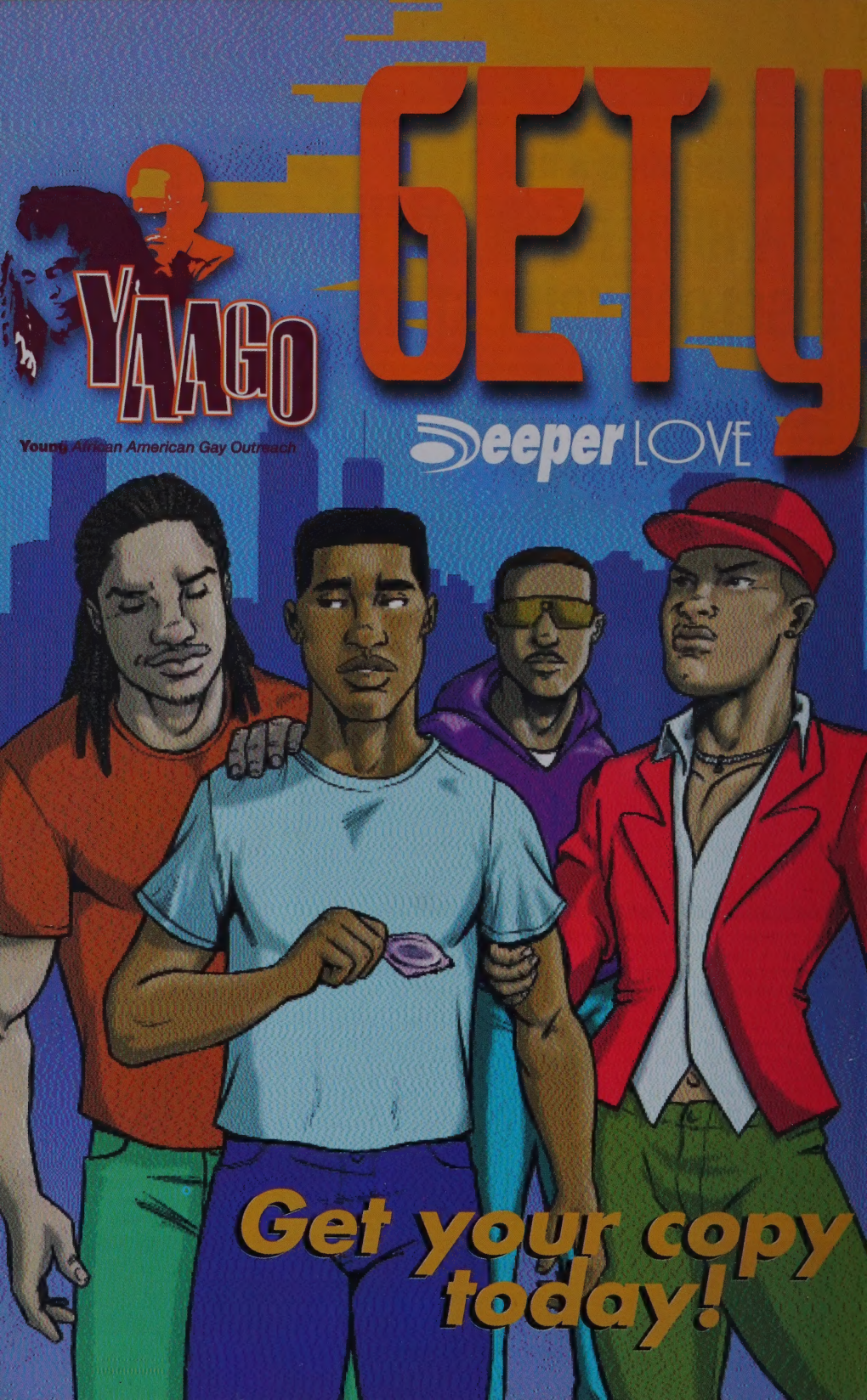
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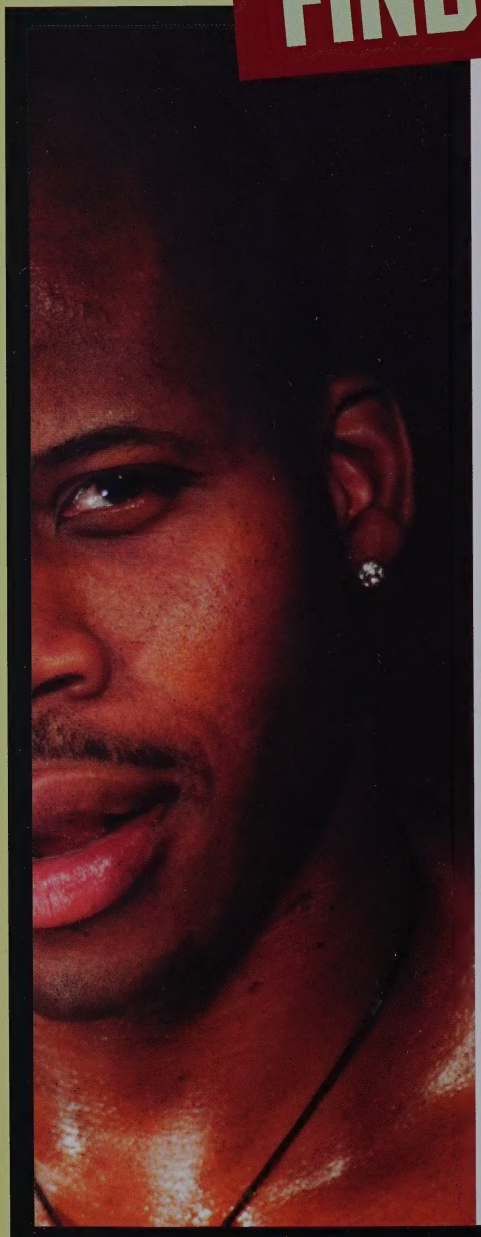


I'd been living in New York City for the past year jerking my life away. Literally: I must have slept with several hundred guys in the previous year, searching in each of them for some fulfillment, withdrawing into a world of 24 hour, instantly available, serial smut on the Web. I felt lonely and depressed and my doctor prescribed an anti-depressant in a well-intentioned attempt to medicate me out of my inertia. However, his best efforts failed -- dismally.

It was during this bout with depression that I became interested in receptive anal sex. Getting poked up the butt -- with anything, let alone a fully engorged, erect penis -- was never high on my list of things to do. But recently... I'd had a change of heart: like coleslaw or sushi, how do you know you don't like something unless you try it?

With this in mind, I made a date with Rick, a guy I met online and chatted with for over nine months before hooking up.

Rick is about as movie star gorgeous as any man I have ever known. There's something overwhelmingly persuasive about a man as attractive as him. It wasn't more than 15 minutes until we were in bed together and he was fucking me. Thinking back, I can't remember either of us ever mentioning condoms but I had told him ages ago that, "I [was] negative and I intend[ed] to stay that way".

Things progressed fairly rapidly from that point on -- we saw each other often, with escalating frequency. It wasn't long before sex dates had become traditional dates, incorporating walks in the park, dinners and sleep-overs. Nevertheless, even as romance blossomed, the primary focus was an incredible sexual attraction. We were irresistibly drawn to each other.

Losing myself in our connection, I indulged my fantasy of a devoted, loving relationship, one that embraces unsafe sex between HIV-negative partners as a physical manifestation of our intense emotional bond. I did NOT want to convert: I'm not a bug-chaser. But I had an erotic notion of semen in this context to the point that ingesting it -- the whole act of consuming and incorporating it -- became an irresistible impulse. And we acted on that impulse. The only

problem? We removed condoms from our equation before discussing HIV status or testing.

Instead of drawing us closer, it felt like our moment of unparalleled intimacy only drove us apart, as a dark cloud descended over our amorous tranquility. Suddenly, Rick wanted us both to test for HIV, "if we're going to do that kind of thing."

Which was fine by me, I suppose, as he had to be negative -- after all, I'd told him that I was and he'd been fucking me raw for weeks at this point. (I mean, he HAS to be negative, right?) I awaited the results with a familiar sense of undulating panic: of course I'm negative; oh my God, what about the time that...; everything's fine; dear Lord, I'm dying -- I can feel it growing inside me!

I got the all clear. Negative, undetectable viral load: the dream survives -- I think. Elated, I left word on Rick's cell phone, hoping he'd return my call shortly with equally wonderful news. And so I waited. And waited.

Finally, later in the afternoon, he rang to report his result. He was positive.

He sounded devastated as he told me that he'd spent the past few hours alone in a café, debating treatment options and pondering his fate, wracked with self- recriminations and doubt. I wanted to drop everything to be with him, but he wouldn't have it. He told me that I should leave him ("I'm no good for you"), that he'd kill himself if I were hurt (Oh my God, that's right: what about me?).

I went straight to my doctor to report Rick's test result. He crossed his eyes, breathed a deep sigh and advised me to immediately commence triple-combination Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP). However, he cautioned me that 10 days had past since Rick came inside me, well outside the 24-hour window within which PEP is believed to be effective.

I'm told the adverse side effects of HIV meds improve dramatically after the first four to six weeks. I wouldn't know, since PEP "only" lasts for one month -- an extremely expensive month if you don't have health insurance or you don't want your insurer to know about it. Within minutes of taking the first of so many hundreds of pills, every waking hour of that month was unbearably nightmarish. Apart from the chronic diarrhea and gassy bloating, my skin constantly felt like it was on fire and I was always exhausted.

Later that first night, tired and alone -- feeling abandoned in my misery -- I tried calling Rick to find out how he was coping and to update him on my news. But his phone was switched off and I was directed -- repeatedly -- straight to his voice-mail: "Call me -- please!" Waiting in vain by the phone, I crawled into bed that first Friday night and cried myself to sleep, trying to come to terms with my responsibility for my role in all of this.

It didn't help that my doctor was adamant that he speak with Rick's doctor immediately in order to better address my treatment -- something to do with geno-/phenotypes.

The following afternoon, Rick finally rang back -- "Oh my God, you sound so sad -- what's wrong?" (What's wrong?)

He assured me that everything was OK, he'd been meditating and had decided to come back to the city on Sunday -- he'd meet me at the pier dance (Gay Pride -- how intimate!). We ended up back together and I felt as if love would see us through this horror. We comforted each other as we settled into our respective drug regimens, gently trying to adjust to our new circumstances. Slowly the old rhythms returned and we resumed an approximation of our prior existence.

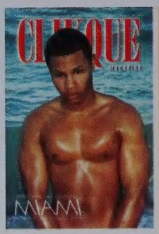
A few weeks later, I came across some of his medication bottles. The prescriptions had been filled a full week before we even tested, about the time he ejaculated inside me.

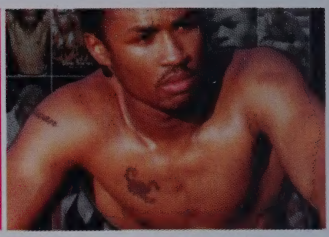
When I confronted him. He told me the truth. He'd known that he was positive for eight months. He just didn't know how to tell me. And he'd assumed that I had to be positive too if I let him fuck me raw -- and cum inside me. He didn't want to hurt anyone, least of all me, he said. He really did love me and was mortified by what he had done, he added. Would I ever forgive him?

I did, but things would never be the same again.

The lesson I learned is this: people, even good people, and those who say they love you, sometimes lie about really important things. Sometimes the lies are by omission and sometimes they're outright, bold-faced lies. And sometimes we even lie to ourselves.

When it comes to HIV-status and disclosure, by the time you finally get to the truth, you may have already put yourself or your loved ones at grave risk. Assumptions should never be made about the HIV status of your sexual partners. However dreamlike sex may feel, serious health risks and responsibilities accompany it.





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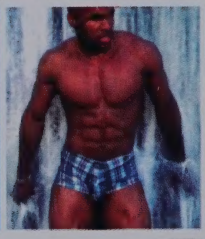
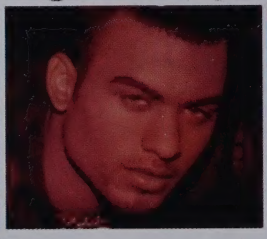
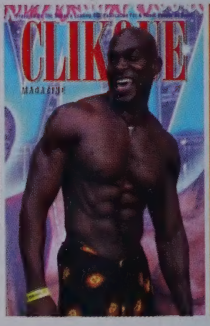

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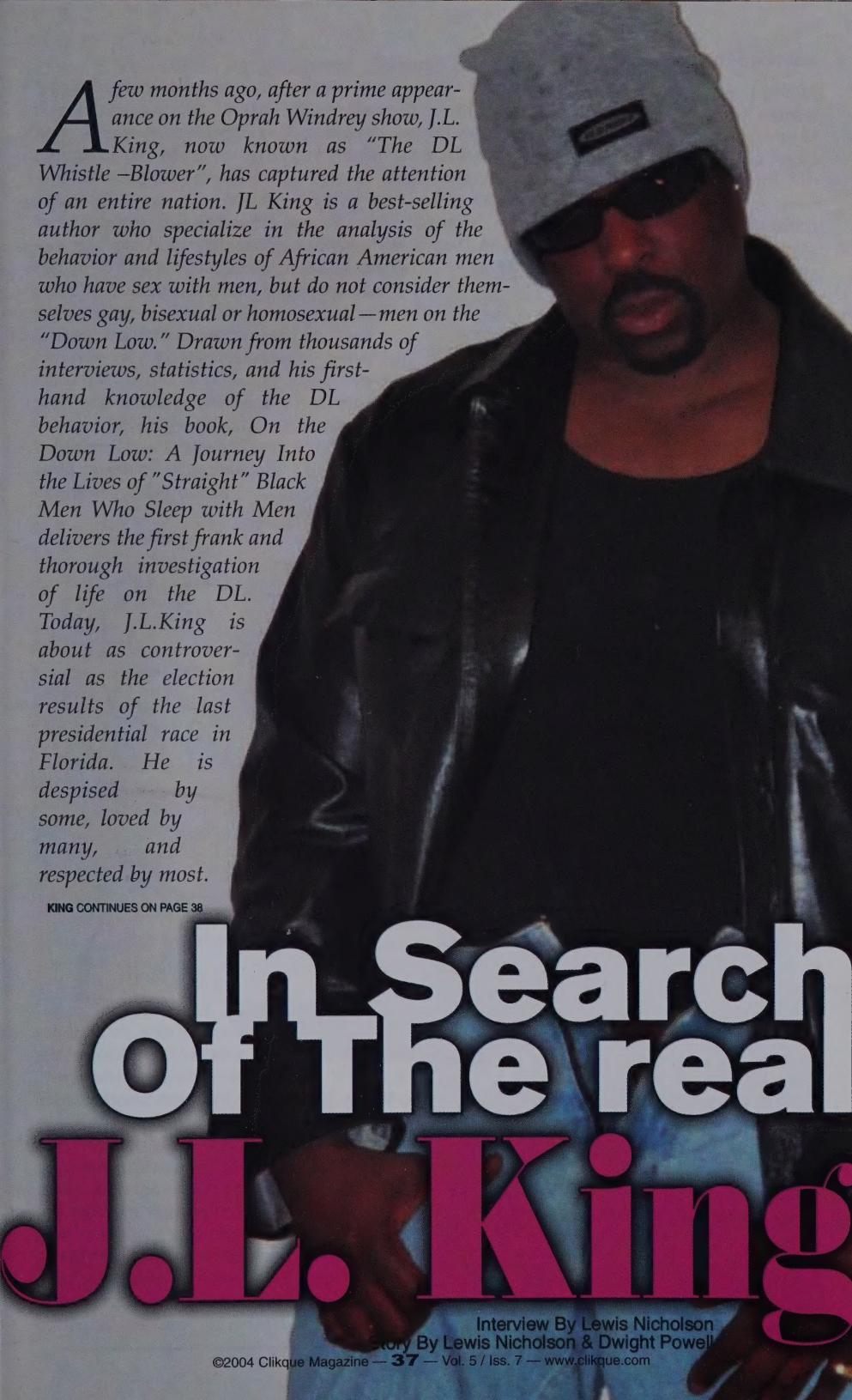


A few months ago, after a prime appearance on the Oprah Windrey show, J.L. King, now known as "The DL Whistle –Blower", has captured the attention of an entire nation. JL King is a best-selling author who specialize in the analysis of the behavior and lifestyles of African American men who have sex with men, but do not consider themselves gay, bisexual or homosexual—men on the "Down Low." Drawn from thousands of interviews, statistics, and his first-hand knowledge of the DL behavior, his book, On the Down Low: A Journey Into the Lives of "Straight" Black Men Who Sleep with Men delivers the first frank and thorough investigation of life on the DL. Today, J.L.King is about as controversial as the election results of the last presidential race in Florida. He is despised by some, loved by many, and respected by most.

KING CONTINUES ON PAGE 38

In Search Of The real J.L. King

Interview By Lewis Nicholson
Story By Lewis Nicholson & Dwight Powell

KING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37

After the books release, women began to wonder if their men could be in the closet putting them at risk of HIV infection. Heterosexual men, found it necessary to prove their manhood to their wives and girlfriends. And gay men felt a sense of betrayal after being accused of spreading HIV to the DL men, who in turn gave it to their unsuspecting wives and girlfriends. The bottom line here is, that one way or another J.L. King has written a book that affects the lives of all black people. Talk about finding the right topic, at the right time.

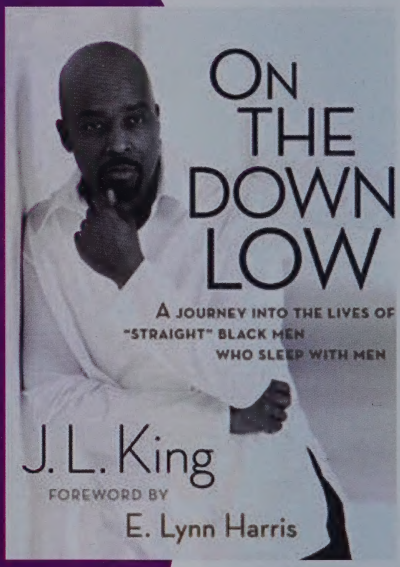
The "DL", a term popularized by hip-hop culture, came to be applied to anyone keeping a sexual relationship secret. It's been appropriated by out gay and bisexual men in the African-American community, as well as by men who have sex with men outside of their primary straight relationship but do not identify as gay or bisexual. Essentially, men on the DL lead double lives.

But even as it's a contested term, the DL can describe a certain African-American cultural specificity—attraction is most often based on both men being immersed in a "straight" ethic of masculinity: Some men on the down low distance themselves from the "gay" label, because of the stigma around homosexuality in African-American communities, and, sometimes, because they reject any affinity whatsoever with gay culture.

This past summer, Clikque had the esteem pleasure to chat with Mr. King about his book and newly found celebrity status. He first shares with us the fact that his primary reason for writing the book was not for fame or fortune, but rather to help the black community, particularly women. Mr. King stressed that Black men on the DL have to become a lot more forthcoming with their wives and girlfriends about their identity.

"I started my journey four years ago. It was not to write a book. I am not a writer. God gave me the opportunity t o tell this story. Even today the success of the book blows me away, especially when I think of trained writers who have not achieved this level of success. I prayed and realized that this was something I had to do. I was a total unknown, it was not to get rich, it was to tell my story," explains J.L. King.

Mr. King is a national HIV prevention educator, activist, author, and producer who specializes in the analysis of the behavior and lifestyles of African American men who have sex with men, but do not consider themselves gay, bisexual or homosexual—men on the "Down Low." He has interviewed over 2,500 men who are living on the DL.



In keeping with his original plan of telling his story and helping his friends working in the HIV field, Mr. King has started the Ally Macon foundation, which supports organizations in need of financial assistance in the fight against HIV. "I'm particularly interested in helping agencies that are struggling to keep their doors open," explains King.

When asked about the title of the book he was quick to explain that the title needed to be catchy and appealing to the masses. Many in the gay community took issue with the title of the book which suggests that these married men that are sleeping with other men are straight. Most gays will tell you that if a man sleeps with another man, then he's gay. That is an age old debate which King acknowledges but said this in his defense," Everyday-people will be able to understand, it was an attention

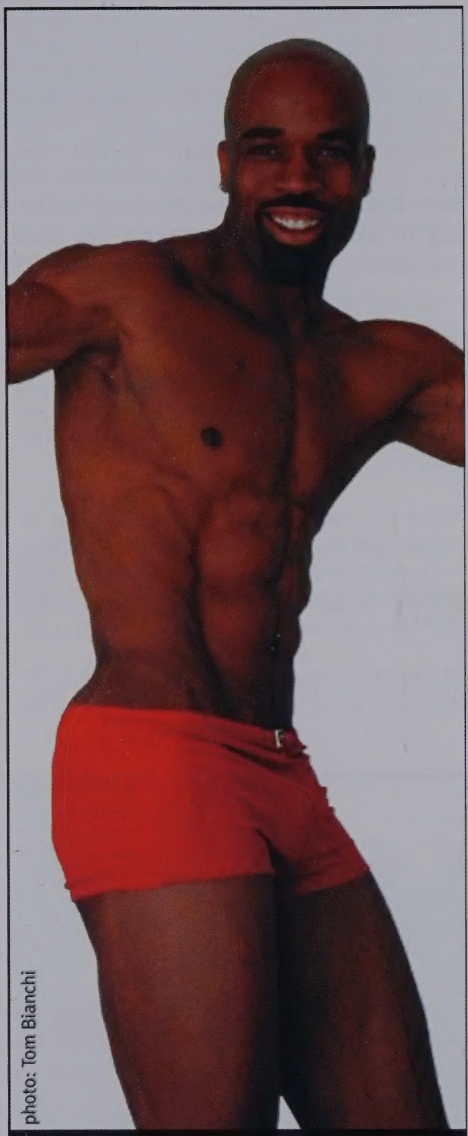
getter, I hope people will understand that I was trying to make the book readable." So we can end the debate over the title of the book being erroneous. King acknowledges that men who sleep with men, may appear straight but they are not.

Shots were heard across the globe from gay and mainstream media when his book was released. The world was consumed by talk of the DL movement and King was on his way to stardom. A status he says that he can do without, especially because the message he's carrying is undeniably far more important than the celebrity status he has garnered. With the increasing rate of HIV/AIDS cases among black women, King felt compelled to tell his personal story—living with his wife and daughter as a DL husband and father for many years.

As women welcome his insight and book with open arms, gay men tend to be some of his harshest critics. According to King, "Black gay men are my biggest detractors. I am not talking about them so I don't understand why they seem to hate me. I am addressing men who generally love pussy more. Gay men are jealous of my being on TV. There were some angry, pissed off, bitchy gay men who met me once at Dr. Ron Simmons, Director of Us Helping Us home. I addressed the pandemic, played on their emotions and their feelings for their mothers and sisters and when I was done they were hugging me in support of my work." The fight with gay black men is not over, but if you were to meet J. L King you may very well feel differently about him.

Recently, Clikque Magazine printed an article written by a woman who claims to have met J. L. King in Charleston, SC at a conference. She stated that King's HIV positive status had caused him and his family great pain. After reading the article, King called the Clikque office to clarify his HIV status. We were informed that this vicious rumor of him being positive had surfaced over a year ago on the internet. "I am not HIV positive, My ex-wife is not HIV positve, and my daughter is not HIV positive", explains King. King is still trying to track-down the source of the fabricated story that has caused great pain to himself and his family, and loss of close friends.

KING CONTINUES ON PAGE 40



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KING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 39

DL men have been around for ever. The topic isn't new to most, so we asked Mr. King, to tell us what is it that makes him and his story so special. This is what he had to say: "I am a good looking black man, father and husband. Plus I am desirable. It was my season and I was the chosen one to tell this story. Women did not believe their men had sex with sissies, but they believe their men would have sex with J. L."

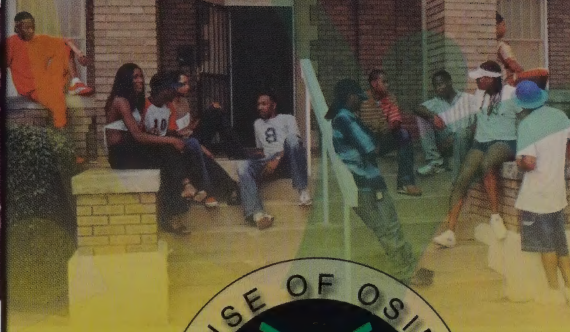
> **"I was reminded of my journey as a fledgling prostitute - how absolute blood lust had coerced me to travel back nightly into the streets, selling life; seed, thus igniting a genocidal hatred of my own flesh and spirit"**

Today J.L. king has a special friend who is female and accepts him for who he is. She is well aware that he has a thing for ass and dick but they have a mutual respect for each other.

To his detractors, King had this to say, "If I was white, by now I would be having dinner with the President, streets named after me. I would be a national hero, if I was trying to save white women's lives. So please let me be." J.L spoke very candidly about his work and his life. There was a sense of urgency and a sense of earnestness in his tone, as well as pride in his accomplishments.

In April 2005, King will publish yet another book. The book remains untitled. "I stirred up the waters and much more needs to be learned. I learned more since the publication of this book. There is way more to be told." If you have already read this book, get ready for part two, and if you have not read the current release, get you a copy so you too can formulate an opinion based on the facts you read for yourself. Needless to say, regardless of how you feel about J. L. King, it is undeniable that this man's work has affected you in one way or another.

Kudos to king for having the insight to incite such a reaction in all of us.



The House of Osiris offers great opportunities for young people. They can stop in to take advantage of outstanding activities like playing pool, video games, or to use our computer lab.

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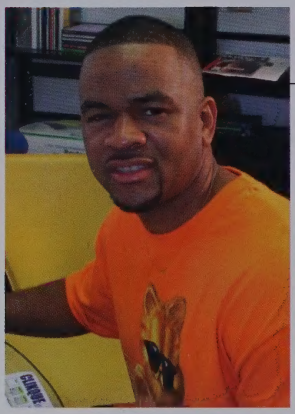
Written By Lewis Nicholson

WHO IS TO BLAME?



"If you love me, you would do it. My test just came back negative; I would never cheat on you. I am clean. You don't have anything, do you? " These are just as few examples of the things we hear, before we are propositioned to engage in unsafe sexual practices.

Some people have had several HIV positive boyfriends and or partners and to this day are still HIV negative. Others have been positive for years and are still asymptomatic. Others have found the drug that woks for them and still there are others who suffer and die from the disease.

I will not quote statistics as this particular issue of Clikque Magazine is filled with numerical data. I will look at the issue of, who is to blame?

I sat and listened as a buddy of mine Jon, explain how he hated Gerard, the man who gave him HIV. He was angry and distraught. The venom he was spewing was unimaginable. I asked him why he was so mad at Gerard and he said, "wouldn't you be, if he gave you HIV?" I thought to myself, no girl, as promiscuous as I have been, I have no right being mad. But that is just me. Jon went on to tell me, that Gerard made him go with him to get an HIV test and his test came back negative. Gerard told him, his was negative too and he foolishly decided to engage in unprotected sex with him for the duration of their relationship. On his next bi-annual visit, after only having had sex with Gerard, Jon tested positive. He went home and threw a bitch fit and rightfully so. Would you believe that Jon's boyfriend had the nerve to tell him, that he had been positive for years, but figured if he shared the virus with him, they would be together forever? The unmitigated gall of some people!

Needless to say Jon still dumped Gerard and now at 25 years old has to live with the knowledge that he is HIV positive. He has adjusted to his new life as an HIV positive man, but he could still have been negative had it not been for that liar he once called boyfriend and his own naivete. On further questioning, Jon revealed that since he never cheated, he trusted Gerard to do the same. So the question here is, who is to be blamed? Gerard for lying or Jon for trusting Gerard with his life.

People claim there are some innocent victims. Implicit in that statement is the notion of deserving victims. Who are these people who deserve HIV? You could not possibly be talking about my handsome, gorgeous, delectable, fine ass brothers, who enjoy a good romp in the hay? Yes, I am talking about the promiscuous ones amongst us. Because I enjoy sex and I do it freely with the next fine brother; does that mean I should contract HIV? I am human too and I too deserve a long and happy life. Promiscuity is a result of many different things, one of them being a lack of self-love and self worth. It is difficult for us to accept that we are self-hating but our promiscuity is an attestation to that fact. I am currently involved in a relationship and so I am no longer the poster child of promiscuity. But do I deserve to contract HIV? And if I did, who am I to blame when I was the one who made the decision to have multiple partners?
The truth of the matter is that all victims of HIV are innocent. No one deserves to be infected. Despite our actions and our many flaws we all deserve to be spared. It is time for us, to talk with our partners about HIV status before the sex begins and not after the test results come back.

There are a few instances when you can point the finger and blame a certain person for your HIV infection, but what good is it going to do?

There are a few murderers out there passing the disease off to others knowingly. Let us hope they will stop this behavior, even though they too may have once been unknowing victims of a killer boyfriend.

So this month, I encourage you to act responsibly and take the matter of your life into your own hands. If you are negative, practice safer sex and remain that way. If you are already positive, take care of yourself to remain healthy. Until next month, when I get to write about something more fun, work hard, play harder and remember to be safe.

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Ask Bianca

Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder, but in my case, it lies all over my face. Oops, my bad. Hello darlings, it's me again, your girl Bianca Buchannan. Sitting untold and perched near this computer as my assistant Francine is typing my dictation. I usually type the column myself, but since I learned that my do girl has a degree in American Literature and can type I may never touch another work-related keyboard.

The summer is almost over and it has been a good one for me. Most of you are headed towards Atlanta to salvage your youth, promote your promiscuity or serve a runway at the functions. I for one will be perched at a spa in the south of France getting me a milk bath surrounded by hung French men. Speaking of hung men I got a phone call from Killer last week. Out of the blue he decides to have a friend of his three-way me from lockdown where he is locked up for trying to get me that last diamond that would have completed my set. Too bad he got caught or he would still be enjoying this hot coochie. He sounded like he may have turned into a batcatcher in there and that will not work with me when he is released.

I had to fess up and tell him that someone had been keeping his bed warm. Truth be told there is no hope for killer and me. The new man in my life has an equally big piece and foreskin. Killer is cut and these days I like the foreskin, so when I go to the beach or if it is raining I can wear it over my head like a bonnet.

Let me get on to this month's letters as Francine and I have hair appointments in 30 minutes.

Dear Bianca,

My friends can't take me. They say that I am a Dinge queen because I only date black men and I am a JAP. My parents have no problem with me dating outside my race but my friends want to know what can a black man offer a Jewish princess such as myself. What should I do?
Michael Feinstein

Dear Michael,
You know exactly what to say to those girls. First off, they are racist and you should slap them for even using the word dinge to refer to good, black dick. As for what a black man can offer you, take notes. You already know this, but let me put it on paper so you can repeat it to your girlfriends. A black man can offer you a nicely sculptured body and a huge dick that will stay rock hard for you to gag on nightly. Also, as the song says, " My boyfriends back and he's gonna save my reputation." remember when you date a black man your song becomes, " My boyfriends black and he's gonna kick your ass, hey nah hey nah my boyfriends black." In any event sweetie, your friends are jealous that they don't have the gall to ride a giant black cock on a regular basis. While your friends turn green I will remain beautiful.
Love B.

Dear Bianca,

I am a DL brotha who reads this awesome magazine in my bathroom on a regular. My girl's brother has been staying with us for a couple months and he gets it every month. I have fallen in love with your cattiness and though I have never seen you, I can imagine how beautiful you must be. From your description. I don't want my girl or her bro to find out that I read this gay book but I had to write to let you know that I

MAIL

Bianca is interested in helping you solve some of the greater mysteries of life. Write her at Clikque Magazine,
1001 North Federal HWY, Suite 365, Hallandale, FL 33009
Or email her C/O Clikque1@aol.com

am falling in love with you. I would love to work your titties over with my tongue and give you some of this good stiff dick. Peaces out my sweet biscuit.
Your boy Mo

Dearest Mo,
Thanks for your letter and your being charmed by my beauty. You are a sick fuck. I will not ever get involved with another DL man. The only DL man I want is the one who stays down low below my waistline at all times. I like my men manly, thuggish, prison types but they must know fully well that they like girls like me. Self made women not born fish. You are indispicable and I hope your girl finds out that you are a bottom that is getting fucked by her brother. I did my research; you and your girl's brother are both slime. Don't write to me again unless it is to tell me of my infinite beauty.
The ever beautiful Bianca

Dear Bianca,

I have been incarcerated for 10 years and I just started receiving Clikque magazine. A friend said he knew you and sent me your picture. You are gorgeous. I want to get with you.
Please write me back
Big L.

Dear Big L.
Thank you.
The ever devastating Bianca

Dear Bianca,

I ran in a pageant recently and did not make the top twelve. My friends said I was robbed. Do you think I should write a letter to the owners to let them know how upset I am? This was the second time my friends say I got duked.
Flawless in Atlanta

Dear Flawless,
You have no friends. Twice you did not make it out of the prelims? Girl, you need a friend who will tell you how much of a mess you are, rather than lying to you about your being duked.

Your so-called friends are the ones working you girl. Trust me on this one, you were never prepared enough to make the twelve. Besides, I thought you girls ran to win not just make the twelve.

My advice is not to write a damn thing to the pageant owners. Prepare properly for next year's pageant and get one good friend to tell you the truth.
Love Bianca.

That's it for this month.
Until next month, on these same pages, of this pristine magazine. I remain forever flawless.
Bianca.

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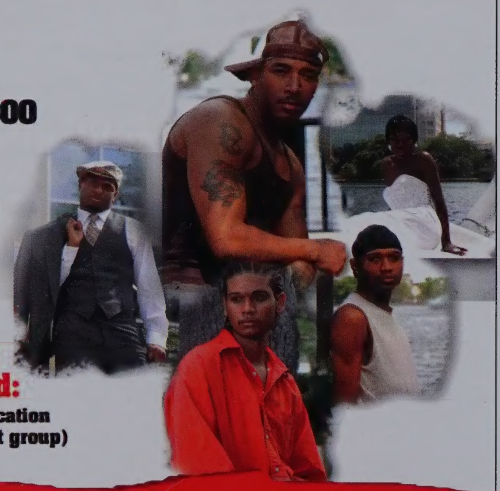
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Written By Lisa Knicherson

CLIKASCOPE

Getting Your Month Off To A Great Start

ARIES

It is time to make that move girl. The time has come for you to be all that you have dreamed of being. You have the raw talent and natural ability to succeed. The problem is that, you do not know how great you are at what you actually do. This month you will be given all that you ask for, so just go ahead and ask.

TAURUS

So you made the commitment and now you have to stick with it. Relationships are not easy, but you can work to make it all you want it to be. You may have made the decision to commit too soon, but is it really? I am not sure that you made the right decision, but you certainly have what it take to make the decision right. Go for it.

GEMINI

So you have been inconvenienced by yet another situation over which you have no control. You are handling it really well. I am here to tell you that, it will all soon be over and your life will be back on track before you know it. You have a good heart and you are a hard worker. Success is yours to enjoy.

CANCER

Lordy, lordy, just when you thought it was over it continues to rain. You are a strong girl and as Gloria Gaynor says, you will survive. You have come a long way with the reinvention of self. Don't let this one set back overturn all the strides you have made. Hold your head up and continue to shine. Remember that you are a star.

LEO

You have taken on more than you can chew. Remember to take smaller bites in the future. Many people are depending on you. You are success driven and will accept no less than perfection, but remember that very few people have your level of skill and or talent. This month you will come to terms with your reality and life will begin to be smooth for you.

VIRGO

Darling, it is your turn to step into the limelight. You are sexy, smart and talented. The man in your life is happy with you and you can do no wrong. You continue to badger yourself, but it is time to stop. In the name of love be happy with all the goodies you have in your basket and be thankful that you are still shining.

LIBRA

You are being selfish and you need to stop. The me, me, me, syndrome you have learned so well is hurting others. Think about the other person for a change. While you are gifted and life does revolve around you, people are beginning to tire of taking second place to your every whim and fancy.

SCORPIO

It is wise for you to tell the folks why you are mad at them or why you are holding that grudge. You left the boy, he did not leave you, so why are you acting that way. You are the sexy one, but how about trying some care and loving-kindness this month? You will be surprised at how good it makes you feel.

SAGITTARIUS

You have been a good girl, now accept the tiara. You have become so charming and good willed that no one can resist you. Continue to do good, as you will reap all the benefits of your hard work and good behavior. A lot of people are envious of you, but even they, have to be somewhat happy at your recent success.

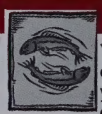
CAPRICORN

You have held it in long enough. Let it all out girl. You have a heart of gold and everyone is prepared to treat you like the princess that you are. Your culinary skills will serve you well this month as the man you have been waiting for is coming to dinner. Make sure you are ready to claim what is yours.

AQUARIUS

Okay, so you continue to dazzle the kids with your brilliance. Many are envious of you and are hell bent on getting you involved in trifling gossip. You are way bigger than those petty things, so be the man of substance that you are and rise above it all. You will always be at the top of your game and the kids will always be jealous of you.

PISCES



Your timing is impeccable and for that your get a letter grade of A. Your friends will be very appreciative of your kindness and good cheer. The boy you just released, may be not have been the one for you in the first place. You have always had the gift of discernment so continue to use it, as you ensure your own happiness. Live girl live!

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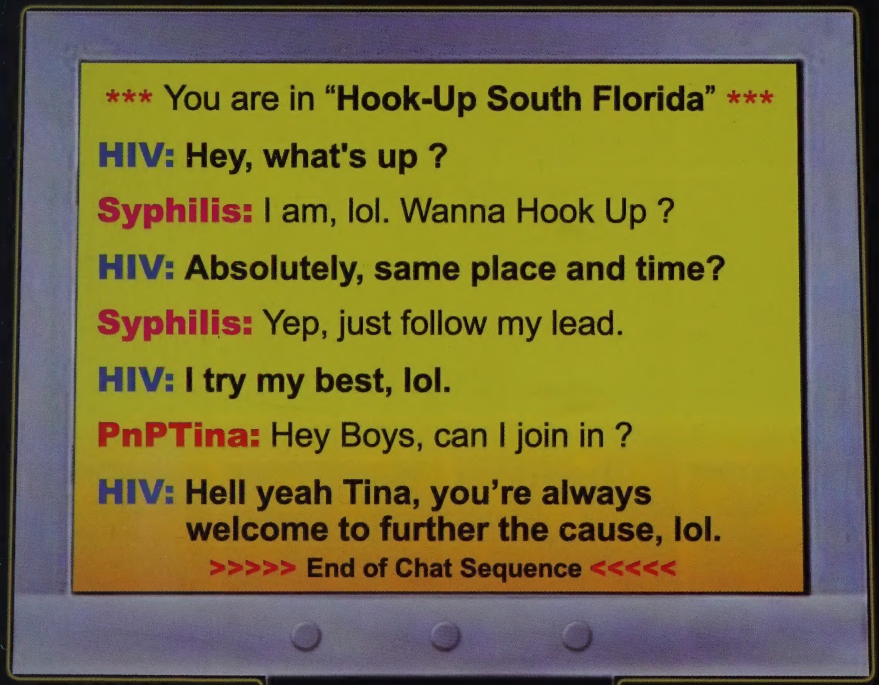
How to Make the World a More POZitive Place


*** You are in "Hook-Up South Florida" ***
HIV: Hey, what's up ?
Syphilis: I am, lol. Wanna Hook Up ?
HIV: Absolutely, same place and time?
Syphilis: Yep, just follow my lead.
HIV: I try my best, lol.
PnPTina: Hey Boys, can I join in ?
HIV: Hell yeah Tina, you're always welcome to further the cause, lol.
>>>>> End of Chat Sequence <<<<<

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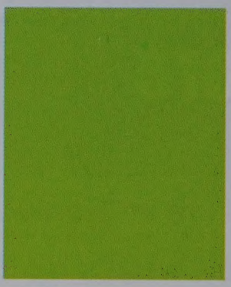
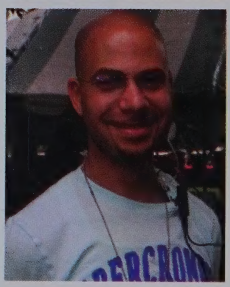
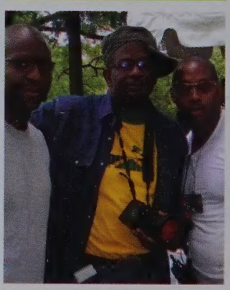
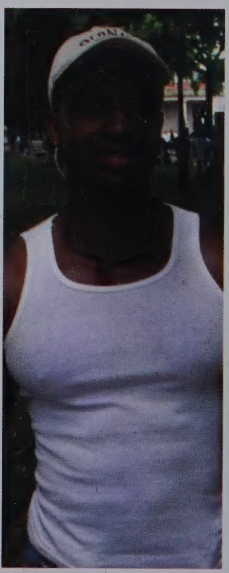
HEALTH

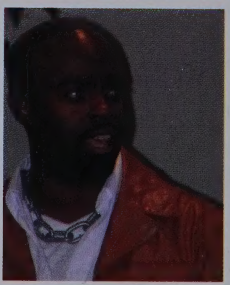
People Of Color In Crisis Black Pride – Brooklyn NY

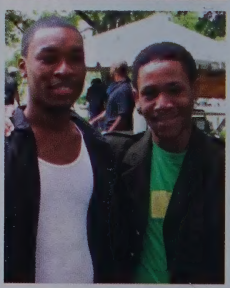


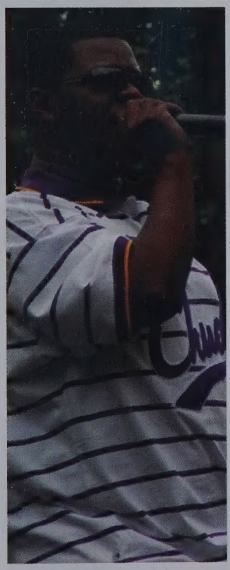


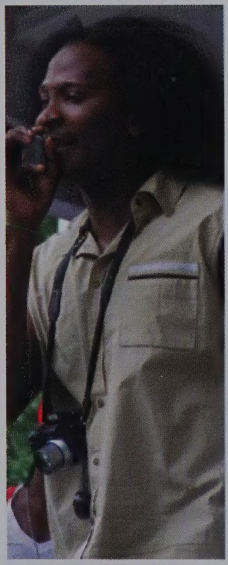


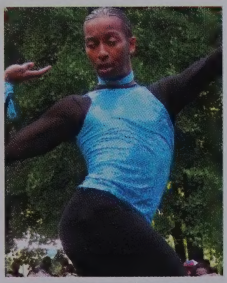


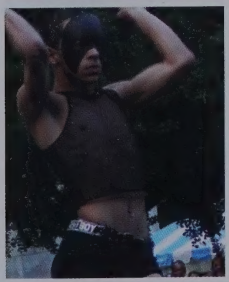


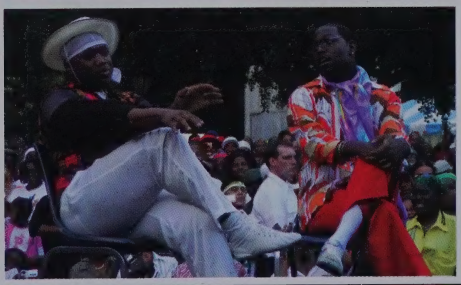




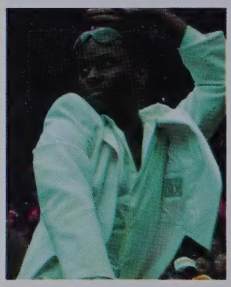




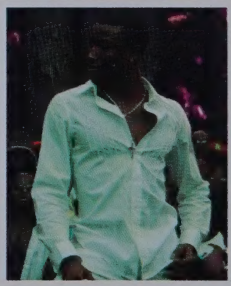


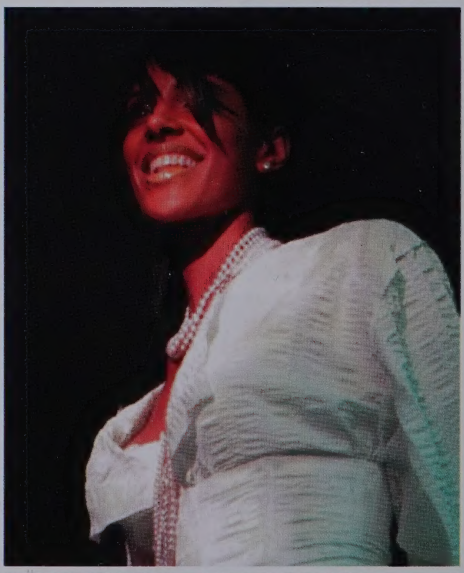


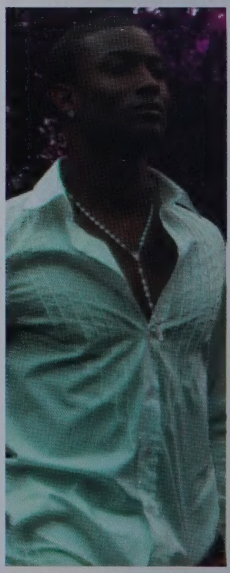
People Of Color In Crisis Black Pride – Brooklyn NY



We attended a white party in the Hamptons where celebrities, fashionistas and the wealthy elite party without a care.... we made them all gag.







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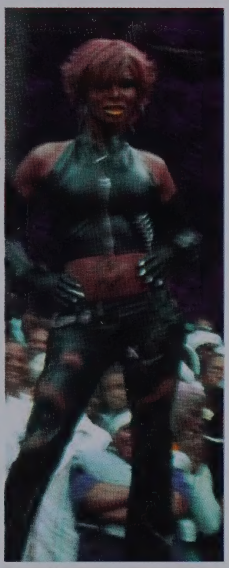
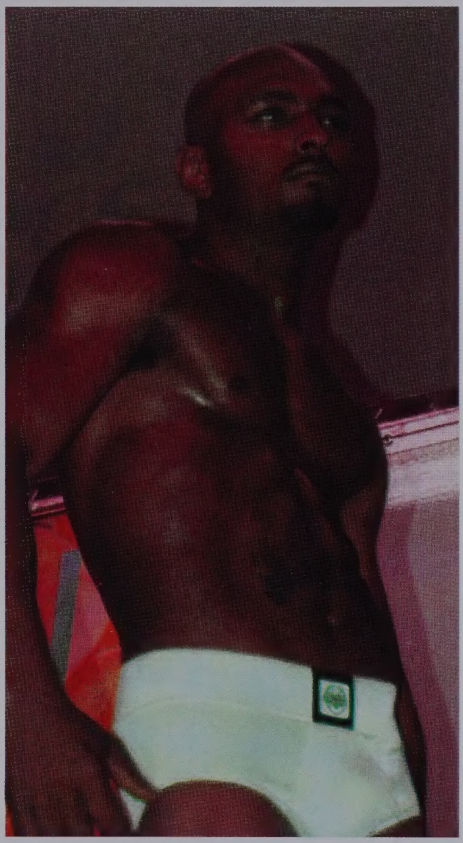
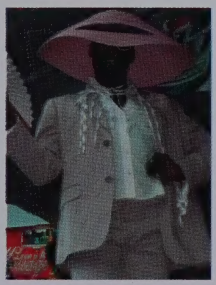
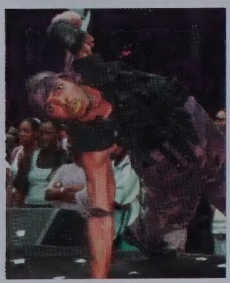
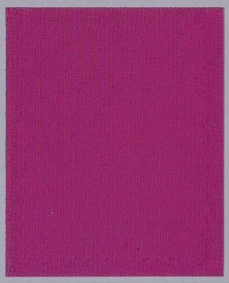


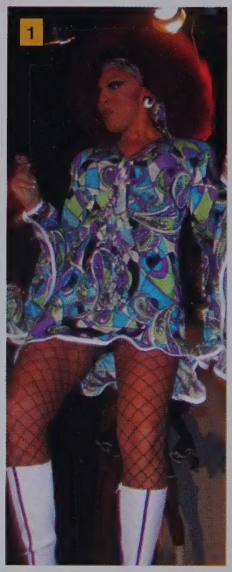


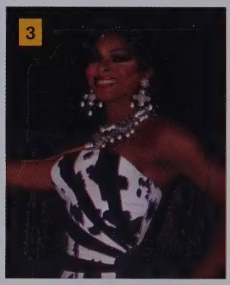




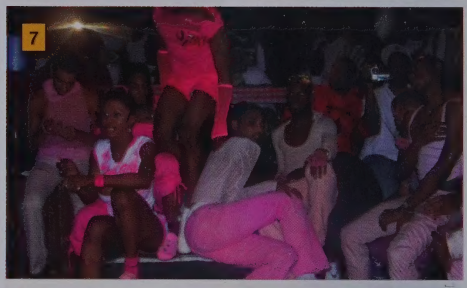


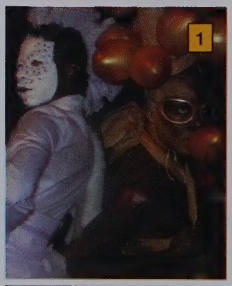
Ms. Liberty & Ebony Ball In Atlanta, Ga



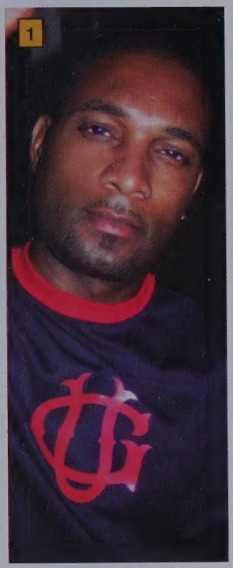


1 Atlanta's Savannah Leigh 1st Runner-up - Ms. Liberty 2 Clikque Cover Girl Ms. Necole Luv Dupree 3 Congrats to Ms. Dominique Shapelle - Winner - Ms. Liberty 4 Clikque Magazine Cover Goddess - The Lovely Stasha Sanchez 5 bbbb bbbbbbb bbbbbb 6 Louis Nicholson showing-off his invitation to the Ebony ball - Talk about presentation, AWESOME. 7-10 scenes from the ccccc ball

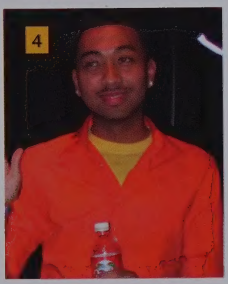


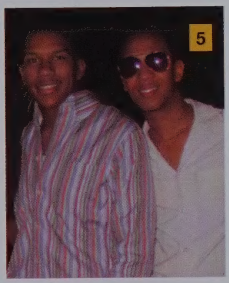


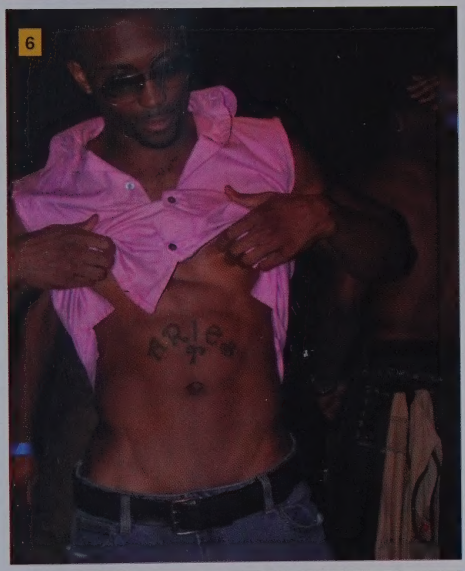
Clikque Magazine "Caliente" Party In Houston, Tx

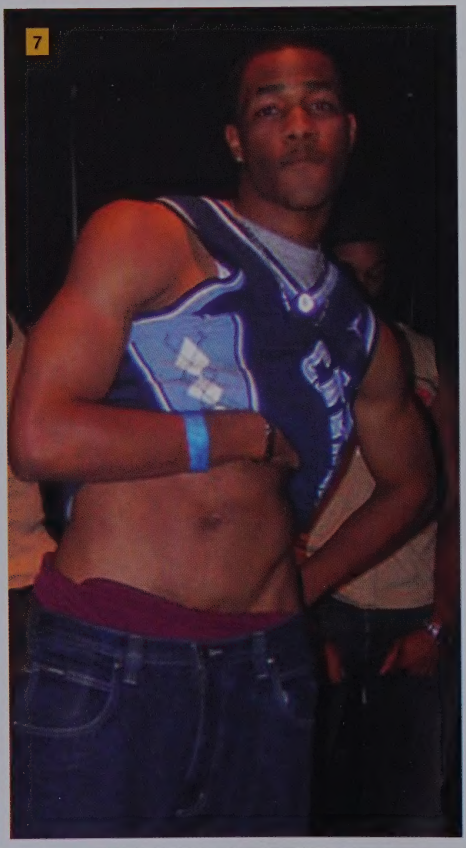


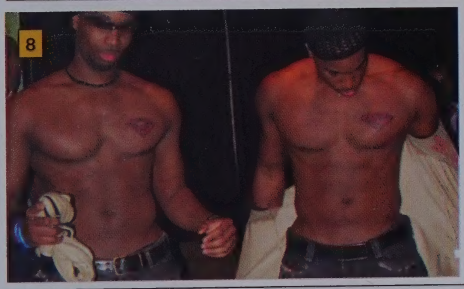
1 Clikque Publisher Dwight Powell. **2** Ex-Destiny Child sensation Latavia w/brother and George Smith (R) **3** Sexy Louis from Miami. **4** Clikque model search contestant **5** Kentwan (R) and friend living it up at Clikque Party **6** Cover Model Search Winner - Mack **7** Next Face/ Body of Sizzle2005 in Miami **8** Sexy twins Lenard and Bernard vying for Cliqkue Magazine cover











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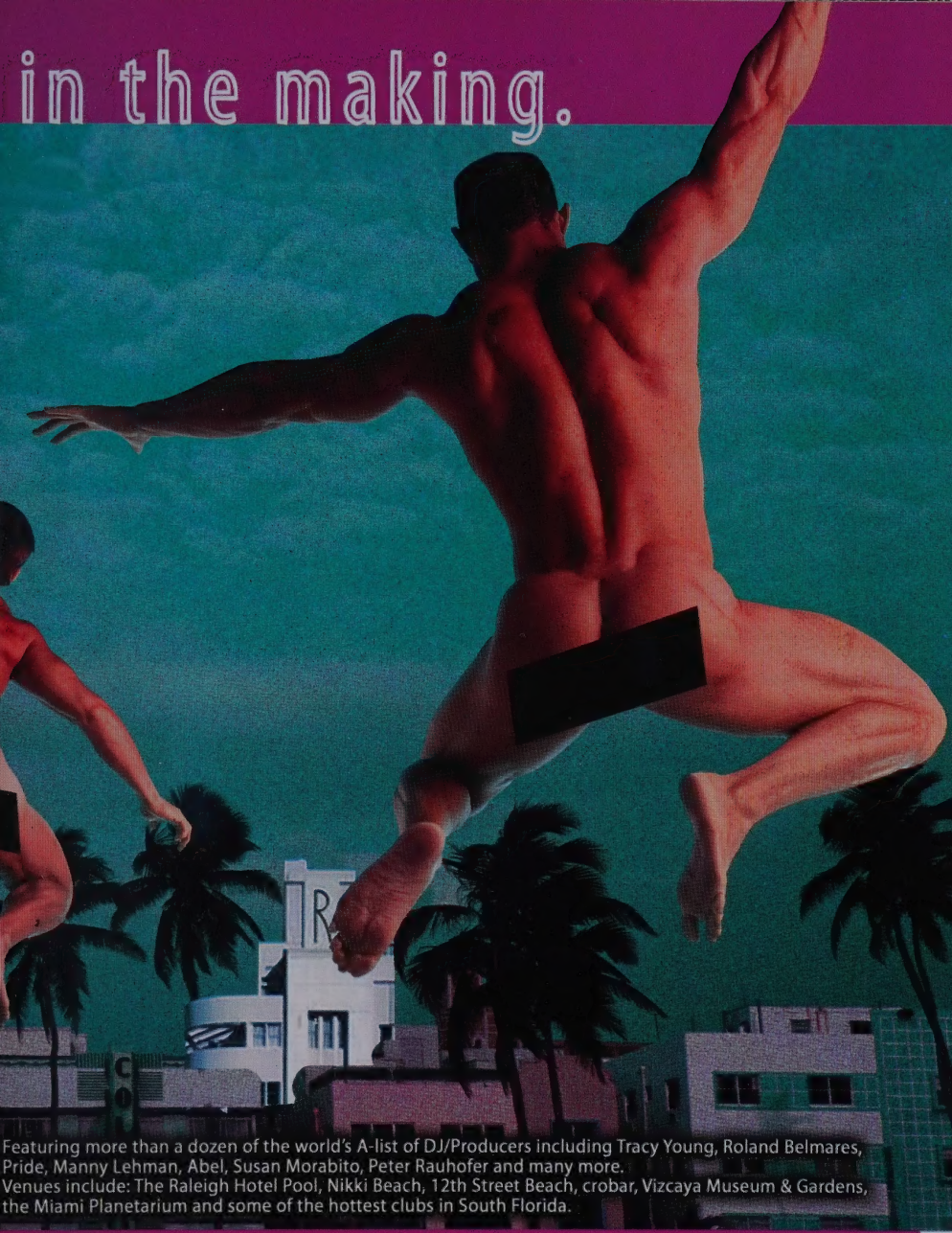

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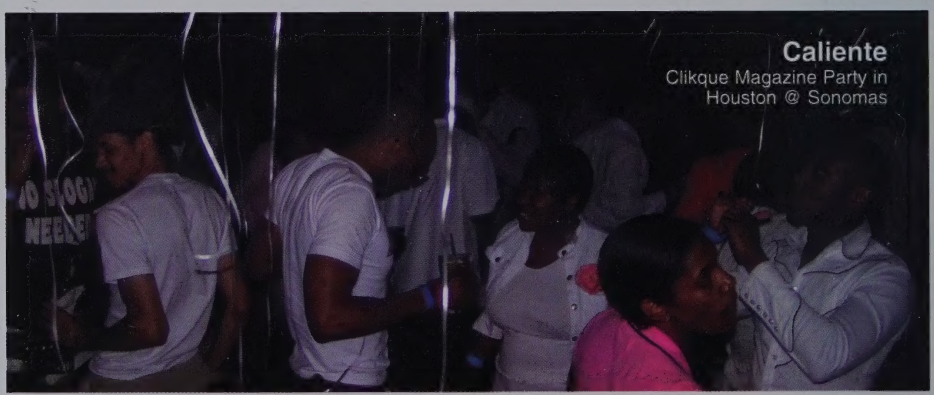
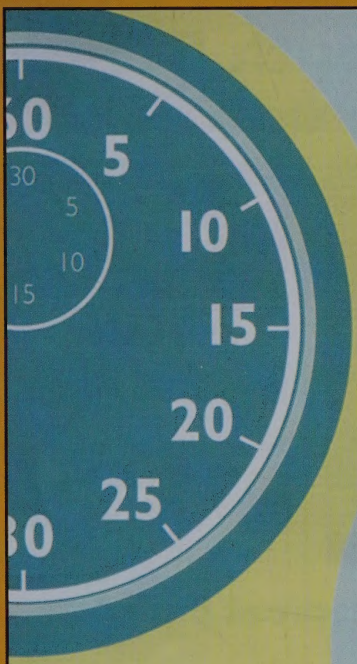


Caliente
Clikque Magazine Party in Houston @ Sonomas



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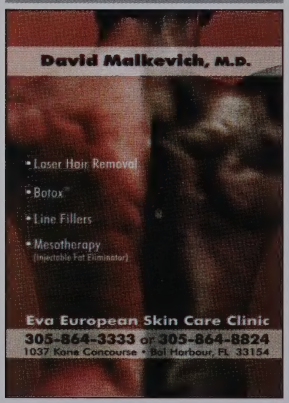

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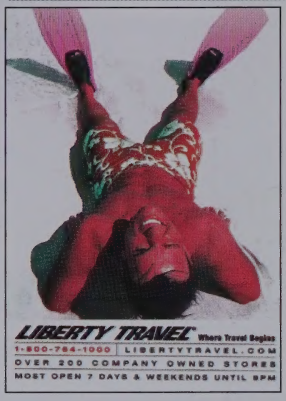

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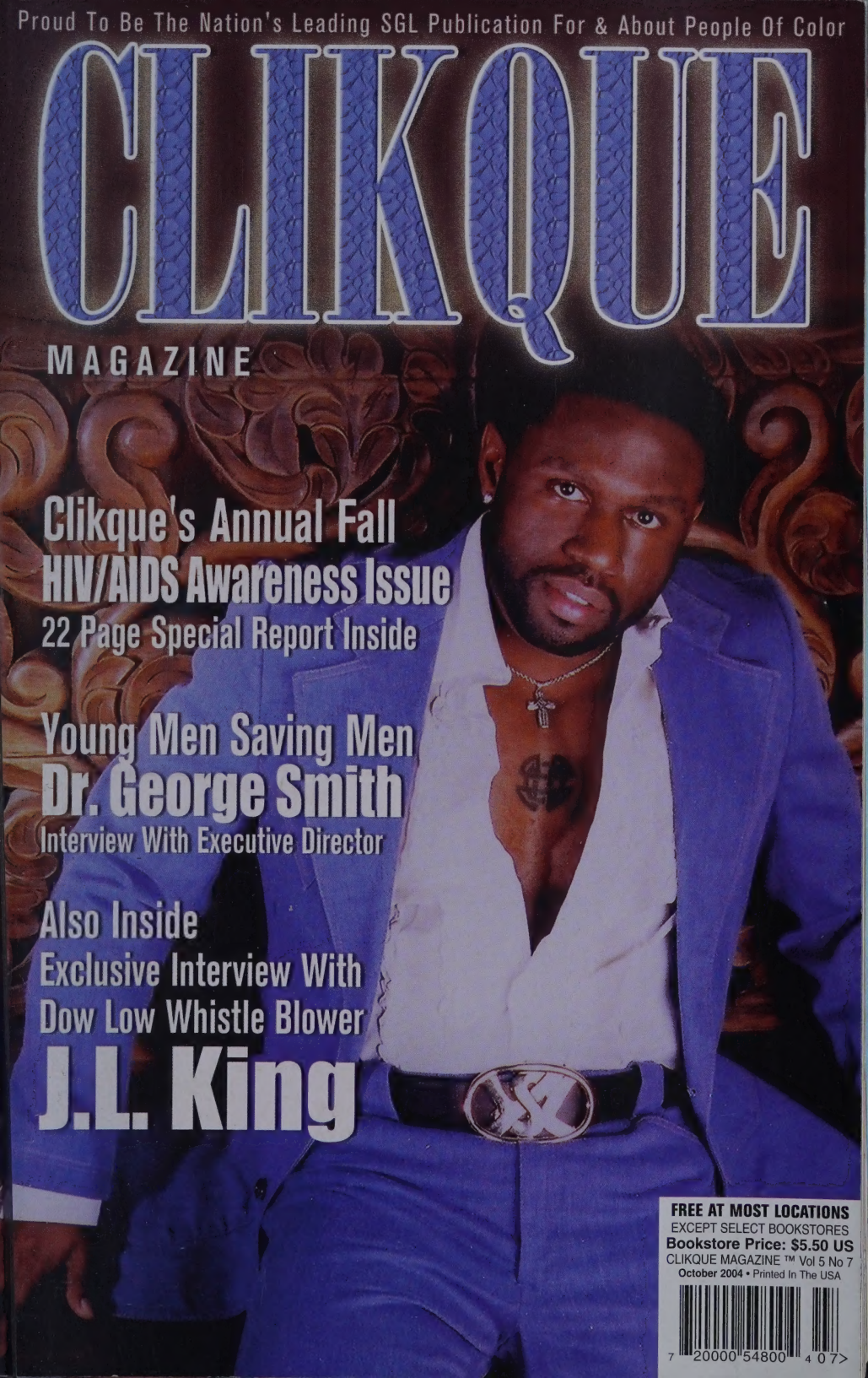

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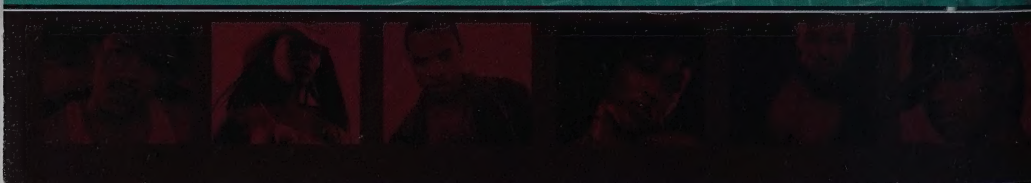

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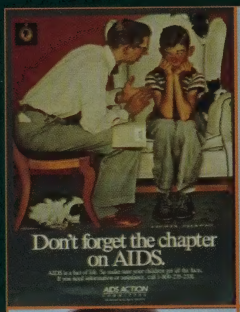

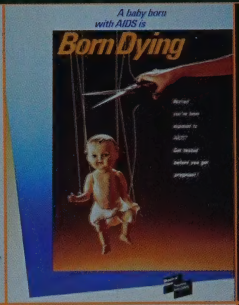

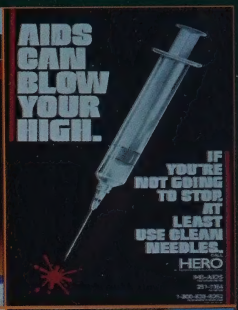

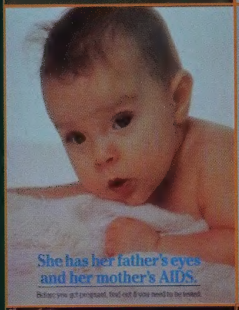

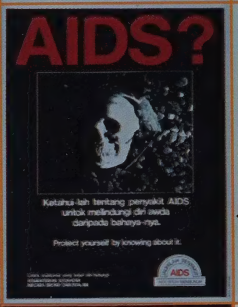
AIDS?
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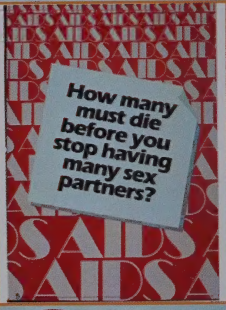
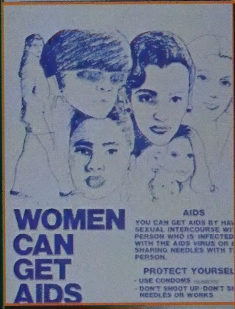
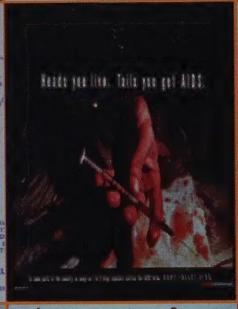
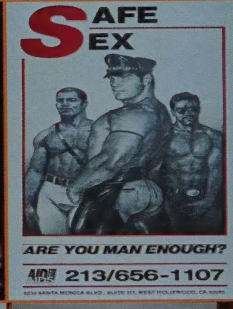
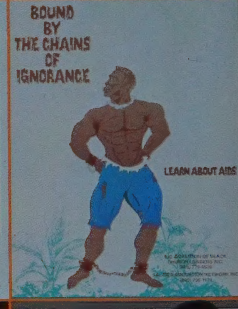
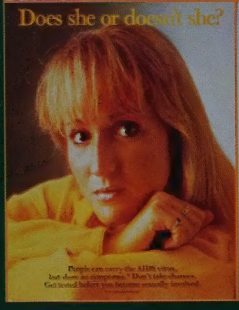


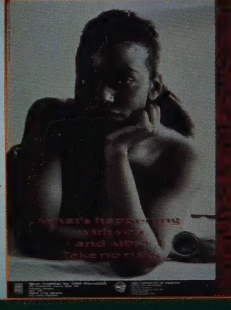


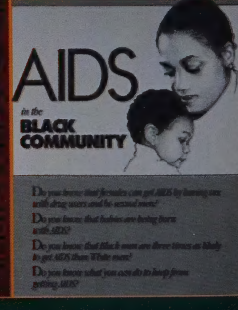












EDITORIAL

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF DWIGHT POWELL

Twenty-seven years ago, white gay men in the United began showing signs of what would later be called AIDS. Two years later in 1980 there were 31 AIDS deaths. However, Black America did not take notice; they saw it as being just a white gay plague. Today, AIDS has evolved into a Black plague that impacts all communities, demographics and sexes. Years of neglect, ignorance, carelessness, and sociological deficiencies have taken a toll, that now seems almost irreversible. In this issue of Clikque, you will be bombarded with a vast amount of numbers, figures and statistics; therefore, I won't go there with this editorial. After reading this special issue of Clikque, it is my hope that you'll be more conscious of the impact of HIV and AIDS, not only on the black gay community, but also, it's ramification for unsuspecting heterosexual women and their unborn babies.

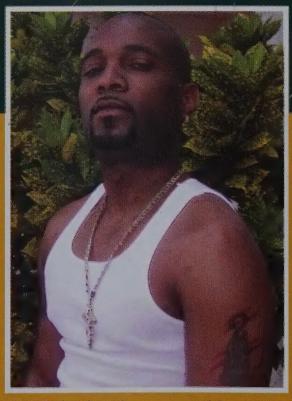
J.L. King, Arthur of *"On the Down Low: A Journey Into the Lives of "Straight" Black Men Who Sleep with Men"*, brought awareness to a subject that has been troubling me for years. I applaud him for making such a bold, brave stance, as he makes women more privy of men that this *down-low* (DL) phenomenon has a lot to do with the sharp increase in the HIV exposure rates in women and children. There are many people that would suggest that King's role in this debate is merely a financial one, however regardless of his initial intent, the outcome is truly a positive, awakening call, to both unsuspecting and naive women, and their dishonest "heterosexual" men.

As San Francisco is the hub for white gay males, Atlanta is the "super hub" for the black gay community in America. It's a city were the nation comes to party. It's also a city with, probably the most bi-sexual or "down low" brothas. The late nineties witnessed a huge social change in Atlanta. Club Fusion, a gay club that opened it's doors in 1998 featured a smorgasbord of undetectable, unclockable, super masculine men... many of whom were married or dating women. I often wondered to myself, what are these guys saying to their women every Friday night... how are they able to get away so often at 2-3 o'clock in the morning? Another club, The Palace was home to thousands of "hardcore", pants hangin', oversized jersey wearin', tims trottin', raleigh-cap wearin' roughnecks. Jay-Z's "Can I Get A What, What" would be blazing upstairs on the second floor while Trina shouted, "I'm da baddest bitch" through the loud speakers on the main level. For most people, that was enough: great music, awesome drinks and a handsome crowd. But for many others... a Sunday evening at the Palace would not be complete without a little extra. So it's off to the basement... where anything and everything goes. I had been going to the Palace for more that a year, before I discovered the *Basement*... it's an area of the club that nobody really talked about. I would often see guys creeping downstairs until one evening my curiosity finally got the best of me. I grabbed my best friend's hand and motioned him to follow me downstairs to the basement. I just had to know what was going on down there. As we got downstairs and followed the narrow hallway, it got darker and darker. My friend started to chuckle and my mouth began to drop at what we initially thought was the sound of an x-rated movie. As we continued to walk towards the large, dark, cold room, I looked around for the TV that supported the sound we had been hearing, but it was not to be found... there was no TV. We had just walked into a mega sex-party, except there wasn't a cover charge, there was no door greeter, and nobody was passing free condoms or towelets either. The smell was fierce. Nobody spoke a word, only the sound of moans and groans would be heard in the silent air. I was amazed to learn that this had been going on for years right under my nose while doing my thing on the dance floor on the level above.

Because the Palace opened its doors from 5PM, everyone conveniently frequented it. From the neighborhood bums of Downtown Atlanta, to the college students of Morehouse and Clark Atlanta, and the nine-to-five daytime professionals, all could participate and have enough time to return home and begin their week on Monday. Now, upon reflecting, I cringe at the thought and certainty that many of those men went home and made love to their unsuspecting wives and girlfriends loaded with today's reality - HIV.

Since then, I learned that a lot of "nightclubs" offered "dark rooms". Also, a lot of these men frequented bathhouses and public parks at night for sex. Unfortunately, this was in an era when both Black gay men and bi-sexuals continued to see AIDS as a white gay man's problem. **Today's end-result is one that continues to devastate our black community.** Regardless of who has the greatest burden to bear for this disaster, we, self-identifying gays, bi-sexuals, and *"straight"* DL brothas must all begin to act responsibly in an attempt to prevent the spread of HIV and protect our families.

Dwight Powell



For years, individuals have utilized Clikque Magazine as a tool to address concerns and issues they deem problematic to our community. While I may not always agree with everything published in this magazine, I almost never censor the thoughts and ideas of my writers and supporters.

In the most recent issue of Clikque Magazine, we "incorrectly" titled an article submitted by our Sr. writer Don Sneed as an "HIV Editorial" instead of an "op-ed" submission to the magazine. Unfortunately, by labeling the article submitted as an "editorial" instead of an "op-ed" submission, we consequently supported all of the thoughts, ideas, and feelings of Mr. Sneed in that article. Mr. Sneed, a long-time supporter and true friend of this publication, for the most part, means well and is truly committed to stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS in the Dallas area. However, we should have used better judgment prior to allowing his last article to run "as is".

I would like to sincerely apologized to everyone that were offended as a result of the harsh, regrettable attacks waged against some individuals and agencies in the fight against HIV/AIDS. You provide an invaluable service with very little reward and pay; therefore, this sort of insensitivity is indeed inexcusable. As an entity, it's not Clikque Magazine's policy to wage attacks against anyone via the media.

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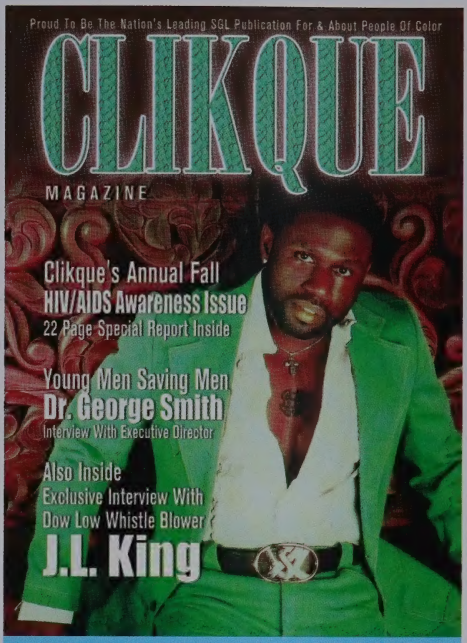

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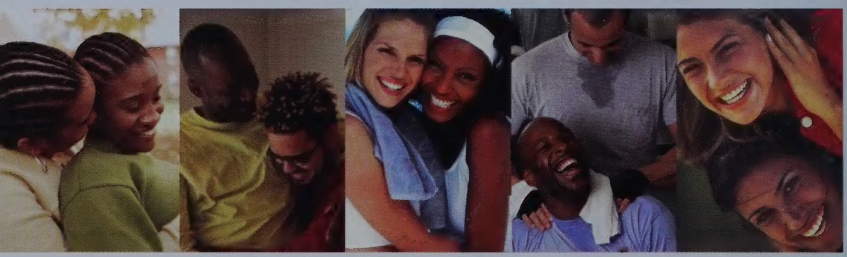

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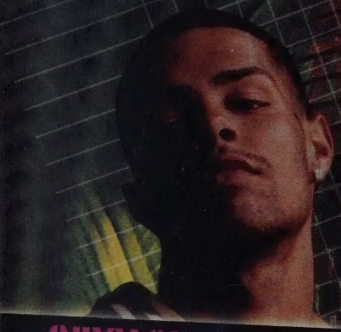

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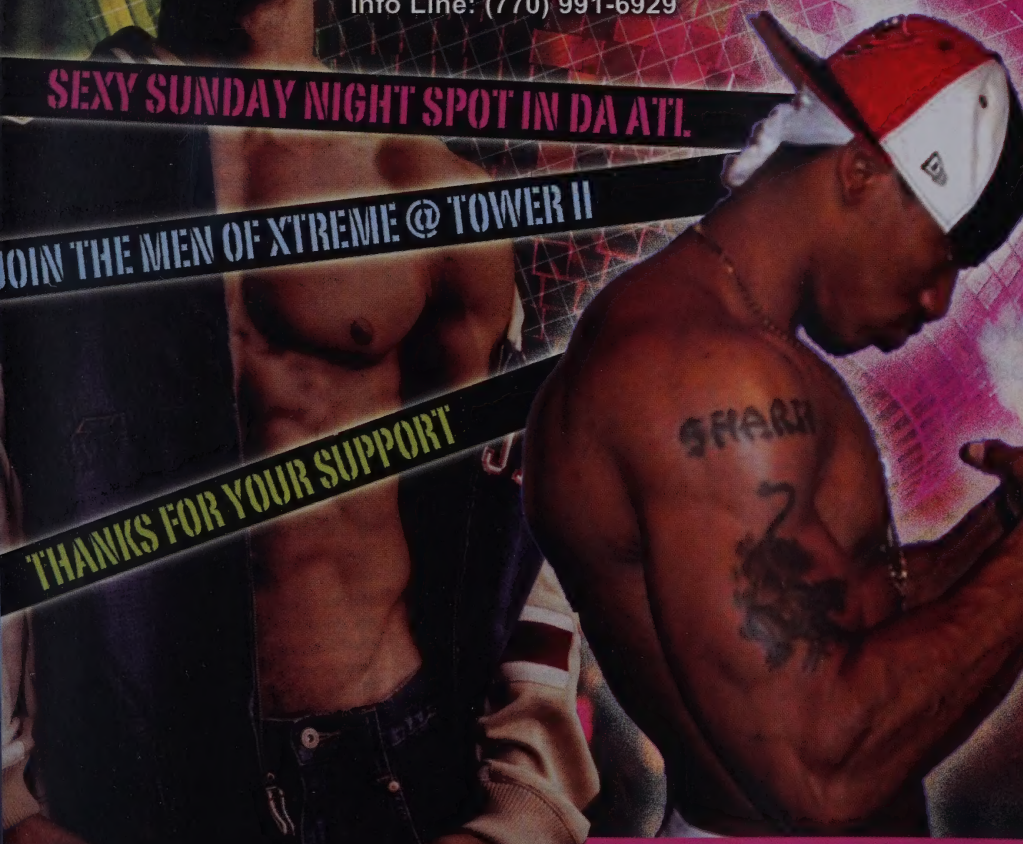
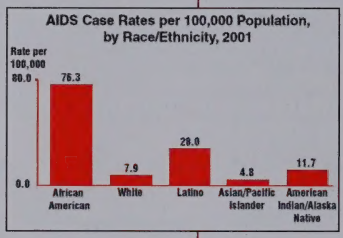


Thanks for a very successful labor day weekend.
We could not have done it without you.

HIV/AIDS: IN BLACK AMERICA

This fact sheet was prepared by Sonia Ruiz, Jennifer Kates, and Claire Oseran Pontius of the Kaiser Family Foundation. It is based on: Kaiser Family Foundation, Key Facts: African Americans and HIV/AIDS, September 2003. The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation is an independent, national health philanthropy dedicated to providing information and analysis on health issues to policymakers, the media, and the general public.

African Americans have been disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS since the epidemic's beginning and the disparity has deepened over time. African Americans represent 12% of the U.S. population but now account for more than half of all new HIV infections estimated to occur in the U.S. each year and approximately half of newly reported AIDS cases. They account for more people estimated to be living with AIDS and more deaths among persons with AIDS than any other racial/ethnic group. HIV was the number one cause of death for African Americans between the ages of 25 and 44 in 2000. The epidemic has had a disproportionate impact on different subgroups of African Americans including women, teens, children, and men who have sex with men, and the epidemic's impact varies across the country. Moreover, African Americans with HIV/AIDS may face additional barriers to accessing care than their white counterparts.

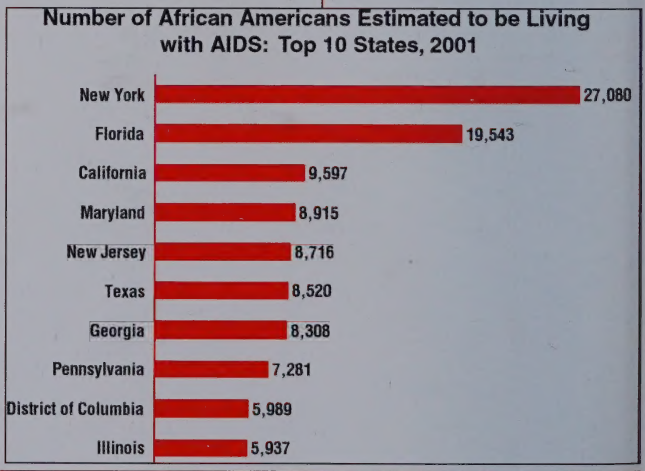


Snapshot of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic

- African Americans account for more than a third (38%) of the 816,149 AIDS cases reported since the beginning of the epidemic and about half (49%) of the 43,158 cases reported in 2001 alone. The number of AIDS cases reported among African Americans in 2001 was greater than for any other racial/ethnic group.3
- African Americans account for more than half (54%) of the 40,000 new HIV infections estimated to occur in the U.S. each year.
- As of the end of 2001, there were 151,530 African Americans estimated to be living with AIDS, or 42% of the total.
- HIV was the leading cause of death for African Americans ages 25-44 in 2000, compared to the 5th leading cause of death for whites and 4th for Latinos in this age group.
- In 2001, the AIDS case rate among African American adults/adolescents was almost 10 times higher than among whites.
- More than a third of African Americans (35%) say HIV/AIDS is the most urgent health problem facing the nation, compared to 13% of whites, and African Americans are much more likely to say they are personally concerned about becoming infected (55% compared to 26% of whites). However, concern among African Americans, as well as the public overall, has been decreasing over time.

Key Trends and Current Cases

- The AIDS case rate for African American men in 2001 was 8 times that of white men (109.2 per 100,000 compared to 13.7). Among women, the AIDS case rate for African American women was almost 20 times the rate for white women.
- Although African American men still account for most new AIDS cases and HIV infections among African Americans, African American women account for a growing share. In 1991, African American women represented 22% of new AIDS cases reported among all African Americans; by 2001, African American women represented more than one third (34%) of new cases reported among all African Americans.
- While women represent a growing share of new AIDS cases overall, this trend is more pronounced within the African American population. African American women accounted for a third (34%) of newly reported AIDS cases reported among all African Americans



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HIV/AIDS is the numer once cause of death for African Americans between the age of 25 — 44.

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in 2001 while white women represented 15% of new AIDS cases reported among whites.3,8 Further, in 2001, African American women accounted for a much greater number of new AIDS cases than white women.

- HIV transmission patterns among African American men vary from those of white men, although both groups are most likely to be infected through sex with other men. A greater proportion of white men are estimated to have been infected through sex with other men than African American men (73% compared to 43%). Thirty percent of African American men are estimated to have been infected through injection drug use, compared to 13% of white men; 21% of African American men are estimated to have been infected through heterosexual contact compared to 5% of white men.
- African American women and white women are most likely to have been infected through heterosexual contact (67% of African American women and 59% of white women). Thirty percent of African American women and 38% of white women are estimated to have been infected through injection drug use.
- Although, African American teens (ages 13-19) represent only 15% of U.S. teenagers, they accounted for almost two thirds (61%) of new AIDS cases reported among teens in 2001.10 A similar impact can be seen among African American children under the age of 13.
- The epidemic has had a disproportionate impact on African American men who have sex with men (MSM). In a recent study in 6 major U.S. cities, almost one third (32%) of African American MSM ages 23-29 were already infected with HIV, compared to 7% of white MSM. HIV incidence among young African American MSM was also the highest of any racial/ethnic group.
- Although AIDS cases among African Americans have been reported in every state, the impact of the epidemic is not uniformly distributed across the country. AIDS case rates per 100,000 among African Americans are highest in the eastern part of the U.S., particularly in the Northeast.
- Estimated AIDS prevalence among African Americans is clustered in a handful of states, with 10 states accounting for 73% of African Americans estimated to be living with AIDS. Ten metropolitan areas account for nearly half (48%) of African Americans estimated to be living with AIDS.5
- During the 1990s, important new advances in the treatment of HIV disease, coupled with prevention efforts, led to declines in the number of new AIDS cases and deaths among people with AIDS across all racial/ethnic groups. However, not all groups benefited at the same rate:
- AIDS cases among African Americans declined by 45% between 1993 and 2001, compared to a 73% decline among whites.
- Estimated deaths among African Americans with AIDS declined by 49% between 1993 and 2001 compared to an 80% decline for whites.
- As with all racial/ethnic groups, the number of African Americans living with AIDS has increased largely due to treatment advances but also to the epidemic's increasing impact on minorities in the U.S. Estimated AIDS prevalence among African Americans increased by 150% between 1993 and 2001 compared to a 68% increase among whites.

OUR PEOPLE OUR PROBLEM
AFRICAN-AMRICANS ARE MOST LIKELY TO...

- African Americans are more likely than other racial/ethnic groups to report ever having been tested for HIV. In 2000, more than half (58%) of African Americans reported ever having been tested for HIV, compared to 43% of the population overall.
- However, some African Americans may be tested for HIV late in their illness—that is, diagnosed with AIDS at the time of their first HIV test or developing AIDS within one year of testing positive. A CDCstudy in 25 states found that between 1994 and 1999, more than one third (38%) of African Americans were tested late compared to 45% of whites and 48% of Latinos. However, a more recent but more limited study in 16 sites found that African Americans and Latinos were more likely to be tested late than whites (57% and 62% compared to 42%, respectively).
- The HIV Cost and Services Utilization Study (HCSUS), a nationally representative study of people with HIV/AIDS in care in 1996, found that African Americans with HIVAIDS were more likely to be publicly insured or uninsured than their white counterparts, with over half (59%) relying on Medicaid compared to 32% of whites. About one fifth of African Americans with HIV/AIDS (22%) were uninsured compared to 17% of whites. African Americans were much less likely to be privately insured than whites (14% compared to 44%).
- The HCSUS study found that African Americans fared more poorly on several important measures of access and quality. These differences diminished over time but were not completely eliminated. African Americans were also more likely to report postponing medical care because they lacked transportation, were too sick to go to the doctor or had other competing needs.

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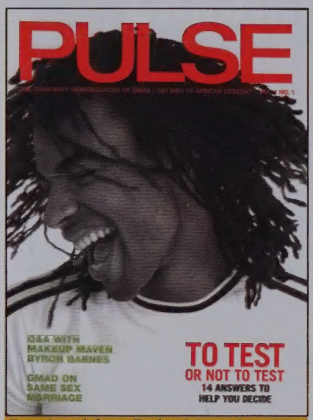
TO TEST OR NOT TO TEST



Reprinted from Pulse Magazine
By **Tokes Osubu**
Executive Director — GMAD

Recently, we asked people what was stopping them from going for an HIV test. We utilized focus group work with both G/B/MSM as well as male to female transgender women. In many ways, the results were predictable, and not very surprising.

Contrary to popular belief, some gay men have not put themselves at risk, and therefore, don't need to be tested. A large number of gay men are aware of the benefits of knowing their status and regularly go for an HIV test. Then there are those that would rather live in denial or who are just too scared to deal with the realities of being diagnosed with HIV. For several men dealing with a complex set of issues, HIV status is not prioritized as high.

Many in the community are so afraid of dealing with the stigma of testing/obtaining a positive result that they choose not to test.

According to the Young Men's Study conducted in six major cities in the U.S. The Young Men's Survey found that 12 percent of a sample of 15 to 22 year old men who have sex with men (MSM) are infected with HIV. 545 men who have sex with men, ages 15 to 22 years old, who attended public settings in, including dance clubs, businesses, and street locations.

Why Would I Want To Know?

By taking the test you are taking control of your health Early diagnosis and treatment can help you stay healthy. Having a test takes away the anxiety of not knowing If you know you are HIV positive you can take steps to protect your sexual partners from being exposed to HIV

Left untreated, HIV (and other sexually transmitted infections) can cause serious, sometimes irreversible health problems.

With the advent of OraQuick, a person can have a preliminary result within twenty minutes, significantly reducing the waiting time

Advances are being made all the time in terms of treatments, so HIV no longer has to be a death sentence

Are There Any Disadvantages To Knowing Your Status?

Some people would rather not know that they have HIV. Some feel that they wouldn't be able to cope. In truth, most people do cope with an HIV diagnosis, despite believing that they wouldn't. There are some disadvantages to having an HIV+ diagnosis:

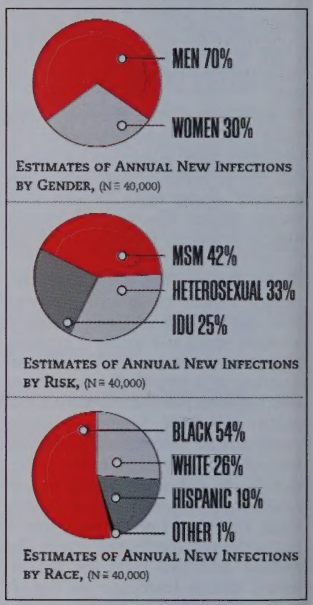
Some countries, like the USA, have laws which restrict entry to people who are HIV+. But many HIV+ people have visited the USA despite this law.

It is possible that you will experience discrimination for being HIV+. Some employers will be reluctant to employ someone who is HIV+.

Having said that, there are many vocational options available to HIV+ people and many are completely open about their status with their employers, who are understanding and tolerant of the extra burdens an HIV+ person may have on their time.

What Happens If I Test Positive?

The good news is that if you are HIV+ and live in the US, you are probably better off than most places in the world. As a gay man, you are likely to get the best treatment (which is paid for by the NHS) & be supported and treated as an equal citizen, suffering less stigma or discrimination than any other country. In the year 2000, a shocking 35% of people who died of HIV-related problems in the USA, died within six months of their HIV diagnosis. (need to cite the reference) Many of these deaths could have been prevented if they had tested sooner for HIV and been able to access treatments in time for them to make a dif-


MEN 70%
WOMEN 30%
ESTIMATES OF ANNUAL NEW INFECTIONS BY GENDER, (N = 40,000)
MSM 42%
HETEROSEXUAL 33%
IDU 25%
ESTIMATES OF ANNUAL NEW INFECTIONS BY RISK, (N = 40,000)
BLACK 54%
WHITE 26%
HISPANIC 19%
OTHER 1%
ESTIMATES OF ANNUAL NEW INFECTIONS BY RACE, (N = 40,000)

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ference. On average, it takes about ten years for people with HIV to develop symptoms, and with current treatment options, most people can expect to live long and fulfilling lives if they choose to take control and go and get tested.

Not knowing your status can be quite stressful. Finding out your status - whether it's positive or negative - can be empowering. It means the end of uncertainty, and an opportunity to make decisions regarding your lifestyle and relationships. Remember, the vast majority of gay men are HIV negative.

What Does It Mean If I Test Negative?

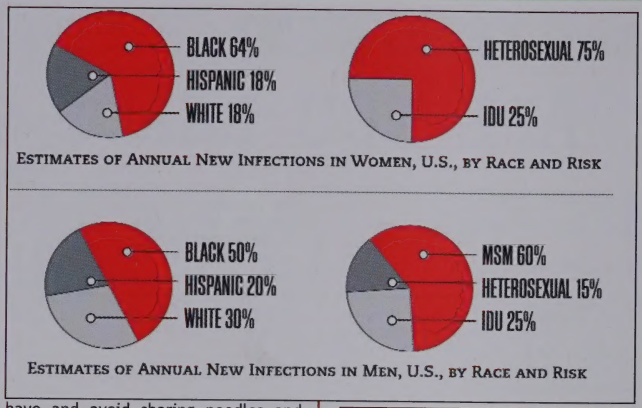
A negative test result simply means that your body has not produced antibodies to the HIV virus. This would normally mean that you do not have HIV.

However, it can take several months (average of 3 months) for your body to produce antibodies to the virus(this is called the window period), so in order to be sure that you are HIV negative, you may need to test again. During this time the test could be negative even if you do have an HIV infection and are infectious. In fact, you are most infectious during this window period before antibodies have been produced. So if you think there is a strong possibility that you have been exposed to HIV, you will need to repeat a negative test to be sure of the result. Make sure you stay away from all unsafe behaviors (i.e. sharing injection drug use equipment, intercourse without benefit of a condom).

If HIV exposure has happened in the last month or so, you should tell the doctor during your pre-test counseling session. He or she will discuss the possibility of early treatment, and probably take some other blood tests which can detect HIV in your blood, if this was not included in the initial screening test used.

Knowing that you are HIV negative allows you to make informed decisions about the sex you have moving forward.

Obviously a negative result offers you no guarantees for the future. So whatever the result of the test, you need to think carefully about the sex that you have and avoid sharing needles and injecting equipment.



ESTIMATES OF ANNUAL NEW INFECTIONS IN WOMEN, U.S., BY RACE AND RISK

ESTIMATES OF ANNUAL NEW INFECTIONS IN MEN, U.S., BY RACE AND RISK

How Would I Know I Am HIV+?

You won't - unless you have had a test. HIV can live in the human body for over ten years without showing any symptoms. You can't tell if someone is HIV+ by the way they look, or dress, or where they go out. (Put in transmission info) If you think you may have been exposed to HIV, you should think very seriously about having a test.

What Does An HIV Test Do?

The test detects antibodies to HIV in your blood. Antibodies are produced when your body detects an infection like a virus, but it can take up to three months for your body to produce enough HIV antibodies to give a positive test result. A positive result does not mean that you have AIDS, but that you have been infected with HIV and developed antibodies.

Where Do I Get A Test?

If your are a man who identifies as gay, bisexual or just gets down with other men, you can get a confidential HIV antibody test (utilizing Orasure - results in seven days or OraQuick - preliminary result in 20 minutes). Additionally, you can access a Confidential or an Anonymous (no name required) test at any Department of Health STD clinic, located in your area

What Happens When I Go For An HIV Test?

There are a large number of clinics where you can either make an appointment or just walk in. In most cases, you will be offered pre-test counseling - where they have a chat with you about the test and make sure you know what you are doing and have thought about either result, as well as answer any questions that you may have about your own risks. Then they take oral fluid/blood - which is a 2 minute procedure which is more nerve-wracking than painful. The length of time till you get your results depends on the clinic and the testing procedure used.

How Long Will It All Take?

Many clinics now offer same-day tests, which can shorten what can be a stressful time, particularly if you are worried about the result. On the other hand you often have to wait longer for same day testing appointments, so you may end up waiting in the long run. Work out what feels most comfortable for you.

Will The Results Be Confidential?

Clinics are free (it will cost you nothing) and they are bound by law to keep your information confidential - but if you still feel nervous about giving your name, you can request an anonymous test. These test do not require you to give your name. At the time of counseling and testing, you will be given a number which you will need in order to access your results.

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HIV TREATMENT:

ARE YOU READY TO START?

Get the Facts, and Make Smart Choices

WHAT IS HIV?

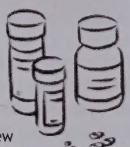
HIV stands for human immunodeficiency virus. Viruses are germs that cause people to get sick. They can cause all kinds of health problems, from the flu to chickenpox. However, HIV is the only virus that causes AIDS.

AIDS stands for acquired immune deficiency syndrome. It is very important for you to know that HIV is not the same as AIDS. A person is considered to have AIDS when he or she has a CD4 cell count (known as a T-cell count) below 200 cells/mm3, or when certain other illnesses also appear. The normal CD4 cell count for a healthy person is usually between 800 and 1,200 cells/mm3 (mm3 stands for cubic millimeter, which is equal to about one drop of blood).

The new research about HIV shows that, if people take steps to eat right, exercise, and get the treatments they need, they can stay healthier longer. Today there are many people who are living with HIV. After a person is infected with HIV, AIDS may not develop for several years.

HOW HIV WORKS

When HIV enters your body, germ-fighting blood cells called CD4 cells rush to attack. The virus attaches itself to the CD4 cells, and uses them to make copies of itself. Within a few weeks, billions of new HIV copies are produced -- and CD4 cells are killed.



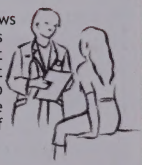
For a long time, your body is able to make new CD4 cells to fight HIV. This is why some people can have HIV for several years before they feel sick.

HIV is called a retrovirus because of the way it uses CD4 cells to make copies of itself. The medicines that are used to fight HIV are called antiretroviral drugs. They work by attacking the virus during the copying process.

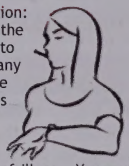
DECIDING TO FIGHT BACK

When you are feeling good, it's hard to think about taking medicine every day. But remember, there is a battle going on between your CD4 cells and the HIV in your body. If you wait until you feel sick to take action, you will have given the virus a big head start. It will be harder for you to get your health back, and some of the damage to your immune system may be hard to fix.

The following list shows how HIV disease goes through several different stages. You can see that the sooner you decide to take action, the more chances you have of staying healthier longer.



THE STAGES OF HIV INFECTION



1. Primary infection: The virus enters the body and begins to copy itself. Many people will have flu-like symptoms during this stage.
2. Asymptomatic (symptom-free): No obvious signs of illness. You may feel fine, but the virus is making billions of new copies of itself in your body.
3. Symptomatic (symptoms appear): Problems like weight loss, fever, and fatigue begin; new infections may also appear.
4. AIDS: CD4 cell count falls below 200/mm3, and you may have other illnesses, such as Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP).

Some experts think it's important to start treatment as soon as you find out that you have HIV. It is true that keeping the virus down with medicine, and building new CD4 cells by following good health habits, can help your body fight back. Talk with your doctor about what would be a good plan for you.

WHAT DO BLOOD TESTS TELL YOU?

When you were told you have HIV, your healthcare provider may have suggested that you get more tests. The two most important ones are:

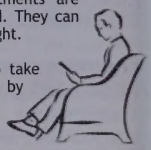
Viral load test: The results of this test tell how much virus is in your blood. The less virus you have, the better.

CD4 cell count: This test measures how many CD4 cells are in your blood. The higher your CD4 cell count, the better.

You and your health-care team can use the results of these tests to keep track of your health and to discuss your treatment needs over time. Talk with your doctor about how often you should have these tests, and ask about other tests that might be helpful for you.

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY!

People who treat HIV say that it's never too early to take charge of your health. Almost every day there is new information available, and new treatments are always being explored. They can all help you in your fight.



Don't wait for HIV to take control. You can start by asking your doctor about getting the tests you need, finding out what stage of HIV infection you're in, and learning what treatment choices might be good for you. Then you can decide to attack the virus while you have the most options.

Each section in this special series is designed to help you understand a different part of the HIV story -- and how you fit into it.

How Nutrition and Exercise Help You Fight HIV

WHY IS FOOD SO IMPORTANT?

Just as your doctor prescribes certain kinds and amounts of medicine to help you fight HIV, you need to choose the right kinds and amounts for good nutrition.

Having a well-nourished body means that you can keep the weight that's right for you. It also means you'll be better able to stay healthy. And finally, eating right can actually help your HIV medicines work better, with fewer side effects.

Good Nutrition starts at the store

Choosing nutritious foods doesn't have to be confusing or expensive. While fresh foods are always good, you can save money by using canned, dried, and boxed foods. You might want to join a food co-op, or get some friends together to save money by buying in bulk.

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Good nutrition takes some planning: Try using these ideas:

Eat protein foods at least two times every day.

Protein is needed to build muscle. Good protein foods are chicken, hamburger, eggs, and canned tuna. Peanut butter and cooked dried beans, peas, and lentils are also very good protein foods, and cost less than meat.

Eat fruit at least three times every day.

Fruit adds vitamins to your diet. Apples, bananas, grapes, oranges, and raisins are easy-to-eat "take-along" foods. Fruit juice is good too. Canned fruit is easy to use, and even the juice in the can may be good for you if it does not have a lot of sugar added to it.

Eat vegetables at least two times every day.

The best choices are yellow and dark green vegetables like corn, squash, carrots, collards, broccoli, and spinach -- fresh, frozen or canned. Potatoes and yams are cheap, good-tasting, filling, and good for you..

Eat bread, cereal, noodles, or rice at least four times every day.

Many grain-based foods are available in bulk at low prices. Try oatmeal, grits, pancakes, spaghetti and other noodles, and rice.

Eat dairy foods at least two times every day.

Enjoy milk, cheese, ice cream, and yogurt. Dairy foods are also good when added to other foods.

Your healthcare team can give you more information about special needs you may have. If it's hard for you to shop, or if you don't have the money to buy food, ask about community services like Meals on Wheels and other groups that can help get the nutrition you need.

Avoid "empty calories"

A candy bar has plenty of calories, but not much real nutrition. It's important to make every bite count. To add calories, add toppings and extra ingredients to the foods you enjoy. It's OK to say "yes" to sour cream, cheese, and ice cream -- but try to avoid greasy or fried foods, which are fatty and hard to digest.

Don't forget fluids

Liquids help you digest foods and help your body stay "regular." You should drink at least eight glasses of water, juice, milk, or other liquids every day. If it's hard for you to drink this amount, try taking lots of little drinks during the day.

Another kind of "healthy" food

People with HIV have to be careful while handling and preparing food because germs can grow quickly and make you sick. Here are some ways to stay safe:

- Wash your hands before and after handling food.
- Wash all fresh fruits and vegetables very well: remove peels and skins.
- Use hot, soapy water to clean cutting tools and surfaces.
- Don't eat raw or undercooked eggs and meat.
- Store food properly to prevent spoiling -- or buy only what you can use right away.

Getting stronge

Even very mild exercise can build muscle and keep weight on. It can help you improve your appetite, and can help you feel better about yourself.

Ask your doctor about the kinds of exercise that would be safe for you. He or she may recommend ideas like these:

- Walking is natural and easy -- no special equipment needed!
- Strengthen your arms and upper body by exercising while holding a book in each hand.
- Climb stairs to strengthen your legs.

You're fighting to win

You'll be surprised how making simple changes in your diet can help you have more energy and strength. You may also find that you feel more confident about making other positive changes -- like quitting smoking or cutting back on alcohol.

Ask your healthcare team for other ways you can play an active role in helping your body fight against HIV. You're on the right track!

Each section in this special series is designed to help you understand a different part of the HIV story -- and how you fit into it.

CARING FOR YOURSELF AT HOME

Day-to-day living with HIV

HIV affects your body's ability to fight off (and recover from) different illnesses. For this reason, people who are living with HIV have to learn to take good care of themselves. This section talks about some of the most common problems that can occur, and will help you learn the danger signs that tell you it's time to call for help.

What is a symptom?

A symptom is a warning sign, like a cough or a fever. It's your body's way of saying, "Pay attention!" Many symptoms will be related to HIV disease. But some may be related to other illnesses -- or even to the side effects of the drugs you are taking.

Don't try to guess about or ignore a symptom. It's better to call your doctor on a false alarm than to ignore a growing emergency. Ask yourself these six questions; they'll help you describe your symptoms to your doctor.

Coughing can be good if it helps get mucus and fluid out of your lungs. But watch for a cough that feels or sounds different than usual, or one that keeps you from eating or sleeping. Tell your doctor if you cough up mucus that is yellow or green or has blood in it.

What to do about a cough:

- Use cough medicine suggested or prescribed by a healthcare provider.
- Moisten the air to make breathing easier. You can sit in a steamy bathroom, or simply put a pan of water in the room.
- Suck on hard candy or cough drops to moisten your mouth and throat.
- Try to get up and walk around to keep your lungs clear of fluid.

A fever is a body temperature of 101 degrees F or more. The symptoms of a fever include feeling hot, of course, but they can also include sudden chills, sweating, and aches in the muscles and joints.

What to do about a fever:

- Try to rest or sleep.
- Drink lots of liquids like water, juice, or ginger ale (no caffeine).
- Stay covered with a light blanket or a sheet (if chills begin, add more covers).
- Take a lukewarm (not cold) bath or a sponge bath.
- Call your healthcare provider when: The fever has been over 101 degrees F for more than 24 hours.

Fatigue

Some people with HIV notice that they have less energy and strength. A person with fatigue may seem not to care about things, or may be sleepy all the time. Fatigue can be caused by exercise, poor nutrition, lack of oxygen in the blood, side effects of drugs, or depression.

What to do about fatigue:

- Find the cause of the fatigue and learn how to prevent it.
- Try to provide a restful, quiet setting.
- Plan for rest periods and naps throughout the day.
- Save energy for important tasks.
- Ask for help with household chores.

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BLACK WOMEN: THE NEW FACE OF HIV/AIDS

The HIV/AIDS epidemic has taken an increasing toll on women. Nationally, the percent of women diagnosed with AIDS nearly tripled between 1986 and 2001. Women of color, particularly Non-Hispanic (NH) Black women, have been especially hard hit and represent the majority of new infections among women. Many women with HIV are low-income and most have important family responsibilities, potentially complicating the management of their illness. Research suggests that many women with HIV face limited access to the health care system and experience disparities in the receipt of care and treatment relative to men.

The fact that married men have been sleeping with other men and then returning home to their wives is nothing new. This has been going on for years. However, today, many of these men are having unprotected sex with other men and also having unprotected sex with their wives.

Despite declines in overall AIDS diagnoses, the number of female AIDS cases has actually increased. During 1991-1992, 420 women were diagnosed with AIDS, accounting for 13% of all AIDS cases. By 2001-2002, 470 women were diagnosed with AIDS, accounting for 24% of all AIDS diagnoses in that time period. C In addition to the increasing rate of reported AIDS cases among women, numbers clearly show that women are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS mortality. While every demographic group experienced a significant decline in AIDS-related mortality due to effective anti-retroviral therapies, declines were much smaller for women than they were for men.

64%

by the numbers by the numbers by the numbers by the

African-American women account for nearly 64% of HIV cases reported among women in 2001.

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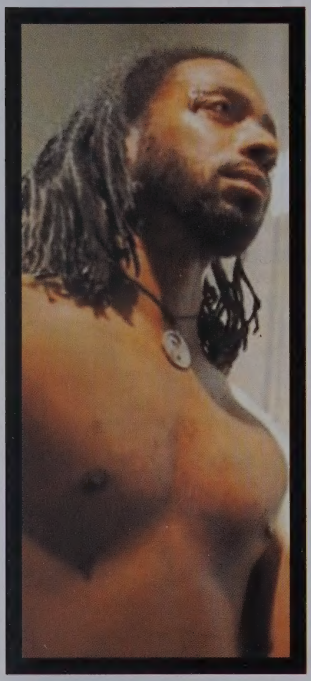
By: Kalid

REFLECTIONS: TESTING HIV POSITIVE, WAS NOT THE END OF MY WORLD; JUST A FRESH START



As I exited the clinic's inner sanctum, a strange sensation crept over me. An indescribable feeling of displacement, a sense of vertigo as reality itself appeared to wrap and bend around me. The disturbance seemed to emanate from the words I'd just heard spoken from within the hospital's walls. As I cautiously approached the outer world, the sense of dislocation intensified with each step. So this was to be the tomb of the imperfect rasta; Khalid himself - beatified here as the martyr and catalyst of a hustlers crusade.

I was reminded of my journey as a fledgling prostitute - how absolute blood lust had coerced me to travel back nightly into the streets, selling life; seed, thus igniting a genocidal hatred of my own flesh and spirit. And now I faced the source of displacement, laid out like an unholy relic, and broken apparently in my battle between spirit and flesh. I had not thought such a thing was possible ... until the words were spoken and the blade was shattered against me, threatening to strike me down ... "Your test results came back POSITIVE!"

Thus the captive spirit inhabiting one of those thousands of nameless faces was released and binding itself to me, became my symbiotic weapon ... I became poison.

I stepped out into the world, and for the first time, I felt the true presence of this other entity - willful, ravenous, and deranged from thousands of years of imprisonment. HIV was now in command - and I, now merely it's helpless host, felt my soul being leeched to restore it's impurity.

But HIV new better than to destroy it's host - and just as I neared the brink of oblivion, it released its hold on me ... deciding to lie in wait.

Several years later, as I recovered, I realized we were now bound together in a fragile alliance. HIV no longer merely my symbiotic weapon, but a sentient parasite, competing for control.

I may no longer be the man I once was - but I can re-embrace the essence of my humanity and the nobility of my soul's desire. Do what I have to do and join the fight - end this plague. All great movements require a sacrifice.

My sacrifice now is my belief system. I was already an adept, however, but because of HIV, I am learning that there are two ways of knowing, two ways of experiencing the world. I step into the past and take on the knowledge of my ancestors. As above, so below. What powerful words. They attract, they repel, they frighten. They fascinate. It's the way of my mother, my grandmother, her mother, her parents, both mother and father; forever before, as I am today. Before HIV, I could never have fathomed the true power of knowledge. To know the future; to see its paths streaming out into the infinite. HIV has become my saving grace. And as such, am I not, are we not,indivisible?
I now know, that if a single one of us stands, we are alegion. I've been awakened.

"I was reminded of my journey as a fledgling prostitute - how absolute blood lust had coerced me to travel back nightly into the streets, selling life; seed, thus igniting a genocidal hatred of my own flesh and spirit"

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HIV/AIDS:
CHURCHES RESPOND

As Black churchs took their own sweet time in responding to the AIDS crisis, thousands of their own parrishoners lost stuggling battles with HIV/AIDS.

They insisted that AIDS did not affect good God fearing Christians and was a disease that inflicted only homosexuals. However, there were a few churches that saw the epidemic as their problem from its onset but support for churches such as these were not forth coming. The Balm In Gilead was one such church which was an early pioneer in caring for people with AIDS.

The main focus of the Balm In Gliead HIV testing, prevention and care program is to assist people affected by the disease maintain as normal a life as possible. The program, which has been in existence for over 15 years, is one of the forerunners in the struggle against HIV and AIDS.

Located at 130 W. 42nd Street in Manhattan, the program serves hundreds of clients daily. Providing healthcare needs, food and clothing; they are very proud of the strides they have made over the years.

A large part of the work they do at Balm In Gilead is to mobilize other churches to get involved in the AIDS ministry. For many years, the Black church was in denial about the true impact of HIV on the church population. Ministers of music were dying from cancer never HIV.

According to Alberta Ware, Director

CHURCH CONTINUES ON PAGE 19

Louis Vuitton Wallet $200
Kenneth Cole Shoes $185
Night Out with "The Boys" $80
Being Yourself: Priceless
GYM
Guiding Young Men
HACS
GYM Outreach Center, "A home away from home", provides G/B/T males with an open minded environment to be "Priceless".
"Bringing Communities Promise For the Future"
713/528-5667
HOUSTON AREA HACS COMMUNITY SERVICES

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of Church and Community mobilization, Balm In Gilead, "I would ask ministers why they were refusing to get involved and start their own AIDS ministries, and they would say, The disease does not affect my congregation. So I had to ask how many members do you have? Then they would say 10,000 or 15,000 and my response to that would be, then your congregation has been affected by the disease."

She further went on to say, "over the last three years we have seen a tripling of the Black Church's involvement in the AIDS crisis. We suggested to the ministers that they do an alter call and not ask for people to come out about their HIV status, but ask that anyone affected by the disease come forward for prayer."

Being affected does not mean that you are positive. Your mother, your sister, your brother, your lover could be, hence you are affected by the disease, not infected.

Various ministers called back the Balm In Gilead offices to thank them for the suggestion, as the numbers of affected members was unbelievable.

Ware said she told them to lay aside their theological stance and go to Jesus. Jesus healed the leper and spent time with the harlot. The church should be a place of compassion and love, a place to worship and not be judged.

The Balm in Gilead is not the only church that has responded fervently to the AIDS epidemic. Joe Ratliff over at Brentwood Baptist Church in Houston, TX has an amazing program going on which includes housing. The neighbors went to court to get the plans for the building of the hospice ended. Ratliff went to bat for the people, stood his ground and today is providing a much-needed service in the city of Houston.

"Jesus healed the leper and spent time with the harlot. The church should be a place of compassion and love, a place to worship and not be judged."

— Alberta Ware, Director of Church and Community mobilization, Balm In Gilead

Ken Samuels in Atlanta, GA over at Victory Baptist church has an exceptional program as well. His church has been picketed by the religious right for comments he made about Mathew Shepard and HIV awareness from the pulpit. "They came all the way from Ohio to Atlanta to protest against Victory church," he said.

Let us not forget Reverend Meredith over at The Tabernacle Baptist Church of Love and Acceptance in mid town, Atlanta where the compassion is unimaginable. At Tabernacle not only do they provide care and love, but all are welcomed and by that we mean all.

The Black church still has a long way to go in the HIV/AIDS struggle, but they have certainly come a long way. Today some of them are even distributing condoms. The religious right remains vigilant in its fight against those doing service for the gay plague, as they still want to call it. But the black church is losing too many of its constituents to rest on its laurels any longer.

Religious Resourses:

UNITY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH (UFC)
www.ufc-usa.org
Gay and Lesbian focused network of Black churches offers community support and outreach ministries

AIDS NATIONAL INTERFAITH NETWORK (ANIN)
www.aidsfaith.com.
Offers a list of religious groups nationwide that support HIVers.

THE BALM IN GILEAD
888.225.6243 — www.balmingilead.org
Supports and educates Black churches about HIV. Website has programs, forums, resources and more

1 IN 50

by the numbers by the numbers by the numbers by the

In the U.S., one in 50 Black men and one in 160 Black women is HIV-positive.

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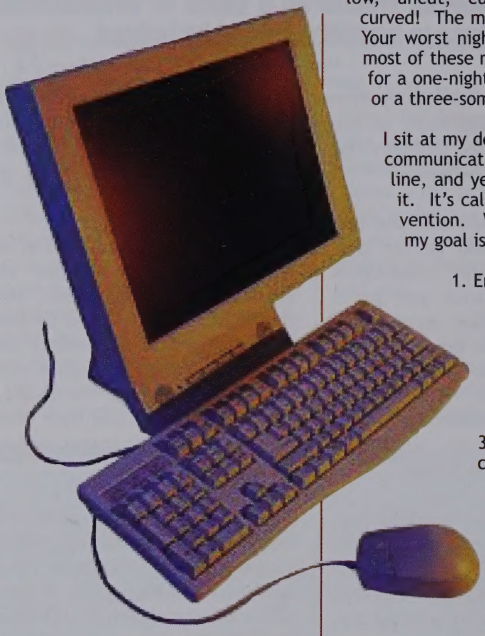
HIV/AIDS INTERVENTION
GETTING CAUGHT IN THE NET



The internet is providing a new wave of communication to the world. Sign on and you can access a variety of things to do such as shopping, gambling, education, travel reservations and yes, even sex. Today, there are literally thousands of chat-rooms that individuals surf in an attempt to connect with someone for a night of sex.

This avenue of hooking up is very popular in gay culture. Some of the most popular sites for African American men who have sex with other men are Adam-4-Adam, Men for Now, Black Planet. Go to any one of these sites and you can access photos and personal profiles of African American men who have sex with men (MSM), and are looking to make a sexual connection on-line. Openly gay, down-low, bi-sexual, bi-curious, questioning, you name it, you'll find it on the net. Tall, short, muscles, slim! Masculine, queen, thug, fem, drag-queen, etc.! Hung low, uncut, cut, thick, skinny, curved! The man of your dreams! Your worst nightmare! Many and most of these men are advertising for a one-night stand, sex parties or a three-some.

I sit at my desk on a daily basis communicating with guys on line, and yes, I get paid to do it. It's called chat-line intervention. When I am on line my goal is to—

1. Encourage people to be safer in their sexual activity;
2. Get our target audience to get tested and know their status;
3. Invite guys to come to the Drop-In Center for one of our YMSM Task Force meetings or interventions.

When online I do get the "What do you all do there?" question. I also often get asked if I am gay. I have found that a guy will put up a wall if I invite him to stop by a HIV/AIDS agency too soon in the conversation. This happens normally because some guys online aren't out to their families, at work or at school and are afraid that someone they know will see them and drop the dime on them. Others have bought into the false rhetoric that the Drop-In Center is for people who are HIV+ and they don't want anyone to think that they are positive. In an effort to take away the mystery created by the net, I encourage guys to call me at the Drop-In Center. I have found that if I can get them to call I can usually talk to them long enough to convince them to stop by for a visit.

Two questions come to my mind while I am providing chat-line intervention. First, are these anonymous hook-ups a primary reason for the rise in HIV infection in the African American Gay community, particularly males between the ages of 13 and 24?

I encounter young men daily who frequently participate in sexual encounters with men they hook up with on the net. These young men say "yes" to all of the right questions. "Yes", I use condoms every time I am the insertive partner in anal sex. "Yes" I use condoms every time I am the receptive partner in anal sex. If unprotected anal penetration is the most likely way that HIV is transmitted during male to male sex, and if so many people are indeed using condoms "every time", then why do the rates of infection among African American MSM continue to rise? Is somebody not telling the truth?

Secondly, is this net that many are getting caught up in setting the stage for the de-socialization of our Black men who love Black men? Even when one hits the club scene for the sole purpose of hooking up, there is a need for some conversation. You can count the times that you have made a connection with a fine brother and found yourself trying to scream louder than the music and the crowd and while trying to give off that "come hither" voice. Words had to be exchanged. A conversation had to take place. You didn't just knock him in the head and drag him off to the back seat of your car and have your way with him.

Call me old fashioned, but doesn't the net take away the opportunity and the need for conversation. When on line we type just enough to communicate how we want to get it, the meeting place and we make a mad dash for the car. Once we see him and the cakes look just like the ones in his picture on line there is not much talking. Not even a question about HIV status. We just get busy! No questions asked. No real names, just screen names. Oh, "Slimsexiboi!" Give it to me "Hunglikamonsta!"
Sure I sound a bit sarcastic, however, I need you to get the point. Let's not let conversation be an ancient art in our lives. If we see him in the store

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the next day we should at least be able to introduce him to our friends by his real name and not his screen name or the size of his piece. The less we converse, the less we know. The less we know the more likely we are to experience trouble in the future because of a one night stand

in our past. And brothers, its time out for us not knowing enough about the men who are bending us over or bootin' it up to us.

Seamen go out daily and drop their nets and lines into bodies of water that are teeming with the daily special. The haunting thing for the creature caught in the net is the reality of impending death. Don't get caught up in the net! Think and act wisely and responsibly. Getting caught up in the net could cost you your life.

ResourcesResourcesResources

Are You In Need Of Support or Treatment. Help is just a phone call or a click away.

Community Based Organizations At Work For You

ATLANTA, GA.
National AIDS Education Services For Minorities
www.naesmonline.org
404.691.8880
2140 Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr

CHICAGO, IL
South Side Help Center
www.southsidehelp.org
773-684-5711
10420 S Halsted Street

CLEVELAND, OH.
AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland
www.atfgc.org
216-621-0766
2728 Euclid Ave, Ste 400

DALLAS, TX.
Renaissance III
www.renaissance3.com
214-428-6227
2606 Martin Luther King Blvd

DETROIT, MI
Men of Color, INC.
313-543-7000
21543 Grand River

HOUSTON, TX.
Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation
713-526-1379
4900 Fannin

Houston Area Community Services
3730 Kirby Drive Suite 820
713-526-0555

MEMPHIS, TN
New Directions, Inc
901-346-5497
4466 Elvis Presley Blvd, Suite 310

MIAMI, FL
Care Resourse
www.careresource.org
305-576-1234
3510 Biscayne Blvd Ste 300

South Beach AIDS Project
www.sobeaids.org
305-532-1033
306 Lincoln Road,Sobe

Village South
www.villagesouth.com
(305) 573-DRUG
3180 Biscayne Boulevard

NASHVILLE, TN
Nashville Cares
www.nashvillecares.org
615-259-4866
209 10th Ave South, Ste 160

NEW ORLEANS, LA
Brotherhood Inc.
www.brotherhoodinc.org
504-566-7955
1661 Canal St. #3230

NEW YORK, NY
Gay Men Of African Descent (GMAD)
www.gmad.org
212-828-1697
103 E. 125th StreetSuite 503

People of Color In Crisis
www.pocc.org
718-857-5900
468 Bergen Street, Brooklyn

ORLANDO, FL
Miracle Of Love
www.miracleofloveinc.org
407-445-6008
1800 Mercy Drive, #300

ST. LOUIS, MO
REACH, St. Louis Inc.
216-621-0766
625 N Euclid Ave

WASHINGTON, DC
Us Helping Us
www.ushelpingus.com
202-546-8200
811 L Street, SE

Now That I KNOW

"I am HIV negative and I plan on remaining that way.

Even if I was infected, I know that help is just around the corner. With the many advances in the fight against AIDS, I know that there are life sustaining drugs that's allowing HIV+ individuals to maintain longer, healthy lives.

So many people my age are taking chances with their lives. ***Knowing my status gives me peace of mind.***"

Darius, Dallas TX.

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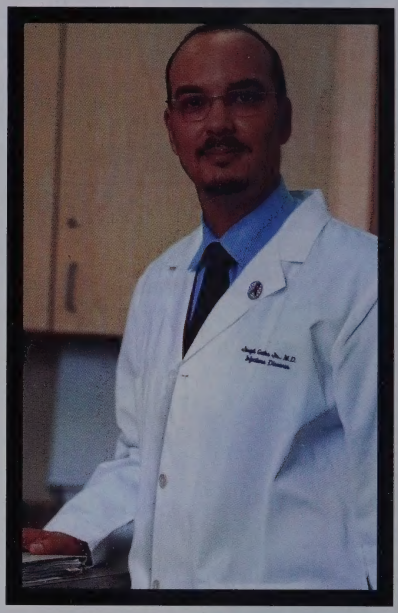
AIDS: IN SEARCH OF A CURE

Dr. Joseph C. Gathe, Jr., M.D., F.A.C.P

Physician – Public Servant – Humanitarian



Dr. Joseph C. Gathe, Jr., is a quintessential public servant and humanitarian. As the medical director of the Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation, Dr. Joseph C. Gathe, Jr., heads a dedicated team of tireless doctors and medical professional committed to advancing the honorable goals and objectives of the foundation.

It became apparent early in his medical career that Dr. Joseph C.Gathe, Jr. possessed an untiring and investigative nature, coupled with a driving desire to seek answers and search for truths that related to and impacted the human health condition.

It was through this visionary exploratory spectrum that researcher and scientist within Dr. Gathe truly manifested itself through his quest to unlock the mysteries of infectious diseases.

Dr. Joseph C. Gathe, Jr., thus became intensely focused on treating the illnesses and effects caused by the multiplicity of infectious disease rampant within our communities.

And for his astounding commitment and dedication to his medical mission, Dr. Gathe's professionalism, persistence and critical subject knowledge was duly noted resulting in his bestowment of numerous honors, awards and professional recognitions for his research, study and service.

He has successfully completed a fellowship in Infectious Disease at Baylor College of Medicine and The Methodist Hospital, and is Board Certified in Infectious Disease and Internal Medicine.

A Diplomat of the American Board of Internal Medicine, a fellow in the American College of Physicians, and a Fellow in the Infectious Disease Society of America, Dr. Gathe Currently serves as a Clinical Instructor for the Department of Internal Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine and is the Chief of Infectious Disease for Park Plaza Hospital of Houston.

In the late 1990's, Dr. Joseph C. Gathe, Jr. met a patient who would have a profound and eye-opening impact on his medical career. Dr. Donald R. Watkins, an influential and well-known community leader, spiritual leader and noted psychologist, who held a Bachelors Degree in Chemistry from the University of Texas at Arlington and both Masters and Doctorate Degree in Psychology from the University of Texas at Austin came to Dr. Gate diagnosed with the virus that causes AIDS.

It was through meeting Dr. Watkins and while treating him for the disease that Dr. Gathe Came to further commit to investing the HIV/AIDS phenomenon with an urgency to work towards its eradication.

As a direct result of this doctor/patient relationship and following the death of Dr. Donald R. Watkins who while ill faced the stigma of inadequate primary care services, the Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation was established with a mandate and charge of providing superior medical services to people regardless of ethnic or financial background at risk for living with HIV/AIDS.

After years of intense and revealing research, the fruits of his labor began to manifest itself in critical revelations and discoveries, resulting in invaluable contributions and finding which is paving the way for possible future of HIV/AIDS eradication.

As a researcher and scientists, Dr. Gathe is Principal or Co-Investigator for nearly 100 protocols focused on improving the status of people living with HIV. He has published extensively on HIV/AIDS topics in numerous respected medical and professional journals such as, AIDS, JOURNAL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE, ANNALS OF INTERNAL MEDICINE, JOURNAL OF ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROMES and THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF MEDICINE. Dr. Gathe has also Authored 68 articles in many peer review publications.

In the areas of medicinal and pharmaceutical applications and treatments, Dr, Gathe has accomplished three of the world's firsts: In 1991 Tetracycline Derivatives as effective treatment for CNS Toxoplasmosis; In 199 the first effective treatment for Crytosporidiosis; and In 2004 was the first to conduct a single drug proof of the safety and efficiency of Kaletra as single drug HAART in+ARV naïve patients.

Now serving communities on global scale, Dr. Joseph C. Gathe Jr., has emerged as a time-tested, fully-committed, knowledgeably-engaged authority on infectious disease and more specifically the growing epidemic of HIV/AIDS.

His authoritative views, opinions, findings and input are frequently sought far and wide from Houston, Texas to Washington, DC TO Singapore to Africa, and Dr. Gathe continues to step forward dutifully in services to mankind with tireless vigor an unwavering commitment to producing positive health outcomes.

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HIV TESTING OPTIONS

There are several HIV antibody tests being used today. All testing options are not available in all areas. Contact your local health department for the tests available in your area.

1. **STANDARD BLOOD TEST:** This was the first HIV antibody test developed and made available, and is the most widely used. With this test, an initial assay is used (the ELISA), and confirmed using a more specific test (the Western Blot).

2. **ORAL MUCOSAL TRANSUDATE TEST:** This test, an alternative to the standard blood test, uses a specially treated pad placed in a person's mouth, and gently rubbed between the lower cheek and gum. The pad collects an oral fluid called oral mucosal transudate (OMT). This fluid contains HIV antibodies in an HIV- infected person. This test does not test for HIV in saliva.

3. **URINE HIV ANTIBODY TEST:** The urine HIV-1 testing method is a painless, non-evasive option for getting an HIV antibody test. This test uses the urine EIA (ELISA) and urine Western Blot technique to detect HIV antibodies, and is FDA – licensed as an alternative to the blood test system. This test eliminates accidental needle sticks and exposure-related dangers, protecting the patient and healthcare worker.

4. **RAPID HIV ANTIBODY TESTS:** Where the standard HIV antibody testing procedure requires up to two weeks for results, the rapid test gives results in 5-60 minutes. Currently approved rapid HIV tests only test with blood. Other rapid HIV testing methods are in development. To perform the test, a fingerstick sample of blood is collected from an individual and transferred to a vial where it is mixed with a developing solution.The test device, which resembles a dipstick, is then inserted into the vial. In as little as 20 minutes, the test device will indicate if HIV-1 antibodies are present in the solution. Although the results of rapid screenings will be reported in point-of-care settings, as with all screening tests for HIV, if the OraQuick test gives a reactive test result, that result must be confirmed with an additional specific test.The OraQuick test has not been approved to screen blood donors.

5. **HOME TESTING KIT:** This do-it-yourself test kit uses the same technology as the standard blood test. Individual blood samples are collected at home, and mailed to a laboratory.Test results are provided over the telephone. The serum
home testing kit costs between $30 and $45, and is available at many drug stores. Currently there is only one FDA approved home sample collection kit. Home HIV tests for other fluids are in development.

For more information about testing options in your area, contact you local health department or the National STD/HIV/AIDS hotline (1-800-342-2437). **The only way to know if you are infected with HIV is by taking an HIV antibody test.**

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REAL PEOPLE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS

Gary English
Executive Director
People of Color In Crisis
Brooklyn, NY

I chose to be involved

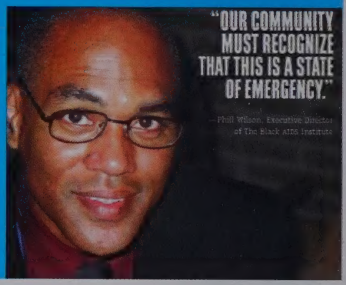
in a Black gay HIV prevention agency because I saw the need to make sure that Black gay men in NY and throughout the country are aware of their HIV status and connected to medical care and services. I feel it's imperative that the Black LGBT community's rights are intact so that we can have a mechanism for fighting racism, homophobia, and sexism in the greater community. Being the Executive Director of POCC, I will make sure that the Black LGBT community's voices are heard. We're not invisible. We want to be recognized.

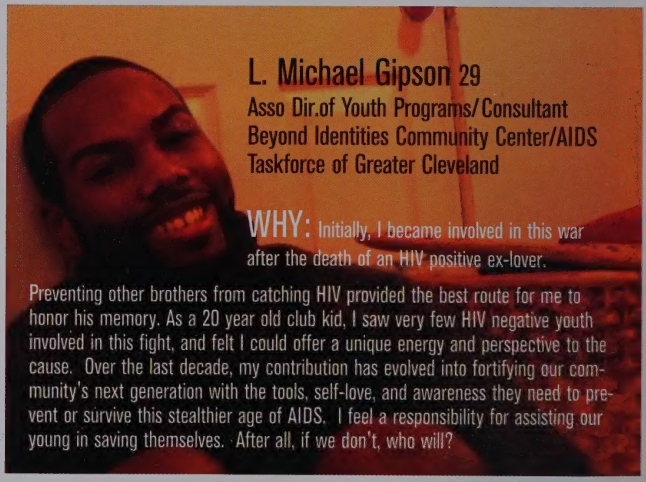
Phill Wilson 48
Executive Director
Black AIDS Institute
Los Angeles, CA

In The Fight Since Because:

I'm a Black Gay man living with AIDS in America and there is a killer loose in my family. Doing my part to stop the dying is exactly what I'm supposed to be doing. Anything less would be unacceptable. When I was a little boy, my parents would tell me that we were a family and the only way for a family to survive was for everyone to do their part. We are all a part of a global family. And through technology, travel and disease, our family gets closer every day. AIDS is attacking our family. Too many of us have died. Too many of us are sick. Too many of us are infected and don't know it. Too many of us are in denial. I've been visiting hospital rooms, sitting by dying beds, and delivering eulogies for over 20 years. I'm in the struggle because the struggle is not over. I'm in the struggle because Craig, Rory, Joe, Donald, Reggie, Chris, Assotto, Marlon, Essex, Keith, Charles, Roger and all the names I've forgotten over the years mattered.

"The lives of Black men are priceless and must be saved"


"OUR COMMUNITY MUST RECOGNIZE THAT THIS IS A STATE OF EMERGENCY."
– Phill Wilson, Executive Director of The Black AIDS Institute



L. Michael Gipson 29
Asso Dir.of Youth Programs/Consultant
Beyond Identities Community Center/AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland

WHY: Initially, I became involved in this war after the death of an HIV positive ex-lover. Preventing other brothers from catching HIV provided the best route for me to honor his memory. As a 20 year old club kid, I saw very few HIV negative youth involved in this fight, and felt I could offer a unique energy and perspective to the cause. Over the last decade, my contribution has evolved into fortifying our community's next generation with the tools, self-love, and awareness they need to prevent or survive this stealthier age of AIDS. I feel a responsibility for assisting our young in saving themselves. After all, if we don't, who will?

No. 1 by the numbers by the numbers by the numbers by the

HIV/AIDS is the numer once cause of death for African Americans between the age of 25 — 44.

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What Have We Learned As Black Gay Men?

By Rudy Carn, Executive Director/CEO
National AIDS Education & Services for Minorities, Inc. (NAESM)

Since the beginning of the AIDS epidemic Black gay men have been dying quietly with nobody to call. Black gay men were shunned by their families and friends for living with AIDS. It was the shattering stories of how toxic the meds were and that the medical professionals and health-care providers did not fully understand the disease. Here we are two decades later. Black gay men are still dying and becoming infected at alarming rates. We must ask ourselves, "What have we learned?"

Many of us felt the need to go further than asking health officials for answers. We made ourselves a part of the solution. We rolled up our sleeves and began to fight HIV/AIDS. We felt that Black gay men were better prepared to help Black gay men than any ethnic group or gender. No one knew the depth and breath of Black gay men's feelings better than men who had walked the same path and faced the same obstacles and rejection. We were brothers by more than genes and physical characteristics. We were brothers because the spirits of brothers who led the fight two decades ago connected our souls. We promised them we would not give up nor would we give in to the pressures inside or outside.

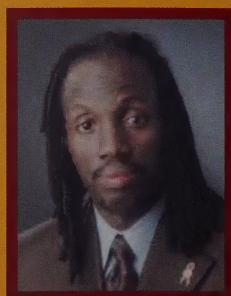
What have we learned as Black gay men? I believe some of us have gotten stronger and wiser in the fight against the epidemic of HIV/AIDS. We learned from our past. We know now that some of the choices needed to change if we were going to remain uninfected or live a strong and healthy life with HIV/AIDS.

We learned that we needed to educate and re-educate brothers about their long term choices. We had to lead by example whether we wanted to or not. We had to show some brothers the difference one day could make. It could make the difference between putting on a condom and taking twenty pills a day.

I wish I could say we learned to fight the system without fighting each other. We could have all done better. We sometimes allowed our passion to overshadow our need to get along with each other. In my younger days, I was outspoken and sometimes arrogant at any cost. I didn't weigh the consequences. I pushed my way through the red tape to get around the obstacles because brothers were dying. I felt I was racing against the windstorm. When I look back and when you look back, we all must examine the sole purpose of the organizations that we gave birth to. Did we create these agencies in the spirit of love or in the spirit of competition? We know by experience that the AIDS Service community is competitive and sometimes cutthroat. But let us not forget that the true mission is not the castles we build here on earth but the brothers we save and protect from HIV/AIDS. Whether we feel the urge that we are racing against a clock or sick and tired of the statistics going up and going down and up again. There is still a need to treat each other with love, respect and dignity.

There is an African proverb that says, "When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion." In my own words, when Black gay men unite, we can overcome the odds. We can overcome the dissension that overshadows our voices in a room. We can rise above the criticism that lingers in the air. We can even run faster if we learn to pass the baton of leadership to brothers whose legs are stronger and muscles are bigger. The baton could be technical assistance to the ASO with only two staff and no money. I remember those days when I wondered how I was going to make payroll. Those days were not easy. They caused sleepless nights and fatigue. On a positive note, the rough spots make us ready for the bend in the road. Most of us face the unknown, every year when we race against the clock to submit grants and continuation applications. We know that our agencies cannot remain effective if we lose major funding. So, we ready ourselves for the next bend in the road. Sometimes, we have to wait for the answer and for the next leader to be prepared.

The cure for AIDS may come long after my life and your life. But the fact still remains, we hope for a cure for AIDS. When it is all said and done, we want to leave a legacy that says, **"Black gay men united and their voices and deeds crippled the affects of HIV/AIDS. They stood ready for a cure and ready to continue the fight."**



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Young Men: SAVING MEN

Jason, an African-American 16 year old sophmore at a Houston high school, has a secret. A secret that he's afraid to dicsuss with his friends and certainly not his family. "From as long as I can remember, I've always been attracted to other boys, but I don't see myself as being gay or anything like that," explains Jason. Yes, this is Jason's secret, he likes boys. I met him infront of a nightclub, shortly after being refused admission for attempting to gain admission with his 19-yearold brother driver's license. "Don't worry young man, you'll have your turn, and hopefully you'll be more aware off your surroundings", I said as I give him some outreach HIV prevention information. One day Jamal will learn that the bouncer at the club was really doing him a big favor. There are many things that Jamal doesn't know about the crowd of men he had hoped to party with that night. One thing in particular, is that 1 out of 3 of the guys in there are HIV positive.

— — *Outreachworker @ YMSM, Houston*

Over the past few years the CDC and many local community base organizations (CBOs) have noticed a sharp rise in the rate of HIV infections of young men between the age of 14-22. Young men such as Jamal are 4 times more likey to contract the disease that their white friends. As a result, the Federal Government, CDC and various city health departments have channeled funds to help young men such as Jamal remain HIV free. Recently, we spoke with Dr. George Smith, Executive Director at the Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation in Houston, Texas, who oversees Young Men Saving Men , a youth program at the agency. Here's what we learned about his agency, himself, and the people that his agency serves.

CM: Who was Donald R. Watkins?

Dr. Smith: Dr. Donald R. Watkins was a community activist, a

WHY DO I CARE?

James Broussard
Community Outreach/Communications Specialist
I am a Black gay man, and I have a lot of love for Black gay men. A huge reason that I love my job is the simple fact that I get the opportunity to meet, help, support, and educate other Black gay, bisexual, MSM individuals. I am now in charge of all interventions, workshops, support groups, and focus groups that YMSM-Houston facilitates, as well as all media/communications programs. I love what I do because I get the chance to see firsthand the impact that I make in the lives of others. I feel good about that! The irony of this is that the people I work with help me grow, mature, and develop more than they will ever know.

Darrell Colone, Data Management Coordinator
I love doing what I do because I have a heart for helping people. Working at the Drop-In Center gives me the opportunity to help my young brothers make choices that lead to healthy and prosperous lives.

Mack Davis
Project Coordinator
Prevention Case Management is more than just a word. Working as the Drop-In Center Prevention Case Manager fills my life with meaning because I know that with each day I have educated a young brother and helped him to understand the importance of protecting himself against HIV and other STD's. I also love having the opportunity to work with young men who are HIV+. I like to believe that what I do as PCM gives them a more positive outlook on life. It gives me great joy to communicate to a young Black man who is HIV+ that being infected does not mean the road has ended. You can overcome the obstacle and live a full and productive life.

Jeffrey Campbell
Project Coordinator
For most of my life I have always loved to motivate positive change in the lives of others. I get very excited watching monumental changes occur instantaneously as well as change that occurs in little steps. Working at the Drop-In Center gives me the opportunity to plant seeds in the lives of young African American MSM that will hopefully move them to make better decisions regarding their bodies, minds and spirits.

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preacher, counselor, a Kappa, a son, and a catalyst, who was diagnosed with HIV, and had a hard time finding a doctor to care for him until meeting Dr. Joseph Gathe.

CM: What services does the Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation offer?
Dr. Smith: Primary care, case management, testing, counseling, preventative case management, rental, mortgage and utility assistance, as well as programmatic efforts for Young men who have sex with men.

CM: What population does the Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation serve?
Dr. Smith: Here at the DRWMF we serve all populations. Men, women, Black, White, Asian, young and elderly.... Everyone.

CM: What is the Young Men Saving Men (YMSM) Program About?

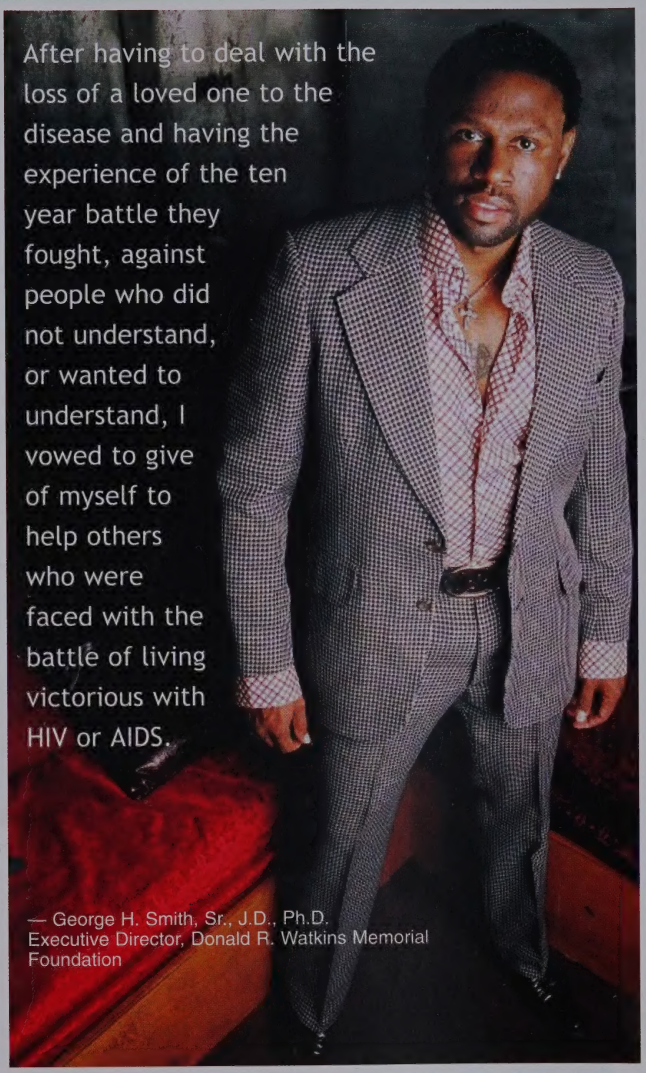
Dr. Smith: A project for young men between the ages of 13-24 who have sex with men. It a place where we provide them an opportunity to voice their concerns, get free HIV/STD counseling and testing, safer sex education, peer Counseling, risk reduction education, referral services, depression counseling, self-esteem development, drug and alcohol awareness, prevention case management, leadership training, and social and Recreational Activities

CM: How effective is the YMSM program?

Dr. Smith: The YMSM program is very effective for the African American Community. The program serves a need that is often neglected by the main stream society. I am very proud of the staff of gentlemen who run the day to day operations.

CM: What are some of the barriers of the project?

Dr. Smith: The stigma of homosexuality. Most African American men who have sex with men do not identify themselves as gay or bi sexual.


After having to deal with the loss of a loved one to the disease and having the experience of the ten year battle they fought, against people who did not understand, or wanted to understand, I vowed to give of myself to help others who were faced with the battle of living victorious with HIV or AIDS.
— George H. Smith, Sr., J.D., Ph.D.
Executive Director, Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation

CM: What is it that you and your staff are doing to get young people involved in your program. How do you get them to visit the drop in center?

Dr. Smith: The staff and I provide program for the youth that are designed by the youth. We serve as a refiner. We have a youth task force that meet monthly and discuss what are the needs of their population. These needs are covered and then as staff we refined them to meet the reqiurements of our funding source. The youth visit the drop in Center often because we maintain a professional but festive environment. There is allways something goin on in the Center.

DR. SMITH CONTINUES ON PAGE 28

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DR. SMITH CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

CM: And you have since transitioned into Executive Director. What exactly does an Executive Director of an organization such as yours do?

Dr. Smith: The Executive Director oversees the entire operations of an organization. I am responsible for managing several million dollars in grant monies, supervising all staff and being responsible for all programs, as well as developing new funding streams.

CM: What is your educational background?

Dr. Smith: I received My BBA in Marketing, MA in Sociology, Ph.D. Public Administration, and a J D.(Law)

CM: Considering that your background is in marketing and Law what made you want to do this particular service related job/career?

Dr. Smith: Having such a diverse background in Marketing Social Services, Public Administration, and Law makes for an ideal CEO. Very often Non profits do not attract the people who are at the top of the totem pole when it comes to education and experience. After having to deal with the loss of a loved one to the disease and having the experience of the ten year battle they fought, against people who did not understand, or wanted to understand, I vowed to give of myself to help others who were faced with the battle of living victorious with HIV or AIDS.

CM: Let's talk a little more about you, you are a young man running one of Houston's largest community based organizations that has a budget in the millions, what qualifies you for such a huge position?

Dr. Smith: My first response would be that none of my accolades qualify me to anything by themselves. I beleive that God has a divine plan and has ordained me to work in this field, the decisions that I make affect people's lives. This is not something to take lightly. If I am not responsible enough, intelligent enough, experienced enough, I would definitely be a diservice to the people who depend on the services that we provide. Now that we understand that it is the creator that guides our path, we need to further understand that God equips us with the neccessary tools. I am a well educated African American man. Only a small percentage of people will attain double terminal degrees and I am one of them. Obtaining a Ph.D and a Juris Doctorate by the age of 35, while holding a bachelors and Masters Degree makes me a fine

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candidate for any top key position. In addittion I have 13 years of experience in the Health Care arena, I am published, I have been a consultant for the past six years, and I own a rehabilitation clinic. Dr. Smith has paid his dues. I am proud to offer my services to African American non-profit foundation who has the world's leading doctor "Joseh C. Gathe" in the field of HIV/AIDS, and now has one premeir Executive Directors "What a Team".

CM: What is the single most rewarding aspect of your work?

Dr. Smith: Knowing that what I do has helped someone's life and has allowed them to retain their dignity.

CM: What is the least favorite part of your job?

Dr. Smith: Losing someone to the disease.

CM: What's a day in the life of Dr. George Smith like?

Dr. Smith: My day starts at 6:30A.M. I have meditation time period, maybe a quick workout, I get to my office at about 7:45-8:00A.M., Typically I am in meetings for the first part of the morning and then I will put out fires through out the day, I spend a great deal of time returning emails, doing reports to the grantors, and the Board of Directors. Typically, my day gets quiet at about 5:00pm and I then, am able to sit in my office and work on funding opportunities, type letters, budget reviews, address staffing problems, and forecast for the organization. My day ends about 7:30P.M. - 8:00P.M. Sometimes I eat lunch.

CM: If anything what would you like to change about the way your agency operates?

Dr. Smith: I think we operate just fine. Even though funding is an ever-present issue. My Medical Director takes the stance that we will not turn anyone away.

CM: A lot of agencies similar to yours are under scrutiny for misappropriations and other indemnities. How have you avoided this?

Dr. Smith: Simply do what you are commissioned to do. The work of non-profits is a special kind of work and everybody is not cut out for it. This work is rewarding, but not often financially. My agency compensates me, but in the for profit world, a professional like myself who has a Ph. D. and a JD can write his own ticket. I say that to illustrate that agencies must use the funds for what they are intended. Agencies must find people who are committed to the cause and not just looking for a paycheck.

CM: Last month, one of our writers called white gay men clueless and manipulative in wasting billions of dollars and not serving the African American community. How do you feel about this assertion?

Dr. Smith: I feel that white gay men should not be held to the task of taking care of or serving the African American Community. African Americans must elevate themselves to the levels that the white gay men have and take responsibility for their communities. We need more African American, Medical Doctors, Ph.D's, Attorneys, Lobbyists, and high level professionals to be able enter into the areas that control the dollars. We should not scream and act in the way that they would expect us, but speak the language of the professional world and maneuver ourselves to get in control or have some influence over who controls the funding. African Americans have got to stop looking to the White Society to solve all of our problems. We must get off of our behinds and mobilize. It takes everybody from the thinkers to the doers, to solve this problem.

CM: Who are some of the key players in the organization?

Dr. Smith: I could not do what I do here at Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation without the support of Dr. and Mrs. Gathe and the Board of Directors. All of the program Directors and their staff empower me to do the task that God has given me in leading this organization. A leader is only as good as those that he leads.

CM: How demanding is your career on your personal life?

Dr. Smith: Very demanding, Being single helps, but hopefully I will find someone who can understand the passion I have for my career and allow me to be me as I allow them to be themselves.

CM: If you could ask one thing of the Clikque Magazine readership what would that be?

Dr. Smith: I would ask that the readership of Clikque get tested and know their status, If you are positive seek care, If you are not positive use preventative methods to decrease risky behaviors and most of all learn how to live victorious through the power that Christ gives us.

With that, our conversation with Dr. Smith ended and he went back to the business of caring for the less fortunate in the Metropolitan Houston area stricken by HIV and AIDS.

54%

by the numbers by the numbers by the numbers by the

African Americans account for more than half (54%) of the 40,000 new HIV infections estimated to occur in the U.S. each year.4

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HIV/POLITICS:
KERRY ON HIV/AIDS

Op-Ed Clikque Magazine
by Ramon Gardenhire
Deputy Director, Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Outreach, Democratic National Committee

Mark November 2, 2004 on your calendar. It's an important date for all of America. But for same-gender loving African Americans, it could be a life-saving one.

More than any other issue, HIV/AIDS is of special concern to the same-gender loving African American community. Although African Americans make up only 12% of the overall U.S. population, we account for half of all new HIV cases. As of 2003, nearly one out of every three urban same-gender loving black men is HIV-positive. And even more troubling than that, according to the Centers for Disease Control, 90% of those infected are completely unaware of their HIV-status. We don't know we have the disease, and as such, we're not doing enough to stop it from spreading.

In the upcoming presidential election, we will have the chance to weigh in on this, the single most important issue facing our community today. Our votes will determine whether HIV/AIDS becomes a national priority for all Americans or is held hostage to a right-wing ideology for four more years.

And the choice could not be more clear.

While President Bush has weakened America's fight against AIDS by pushing abstinence-based programs over scientifically proven contraceptive methods of protection, John Kerry has been leading the fight against HIV/AIDS for over a decade. He was an original cosponsor of the 1990 "Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act" to improve the quality and availability of care for individuals and families with HIV. John Kerry was a key supporter of the Ryan White Care Act, which significantly improved health care and the quality of life for those with HIV, and in 2003, he stood up against Republican attempts to decrease funding for minority health care, including HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programs. His hard work on behalf of those in our community with HIV/AIDS has earned him a career rating of 100% from the NAACP and Human Rights Campaign.

And once we help elect John Kerry as President, he will continue to fight for us.

John Kerry plans to continue waging an all out war against HIV/AIDS and the right-wing policies that place our community in danger. He will increase Funding for the Ryan White CARE Act. He will ensure equal access for those of us living with the diseases with the Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA) program. Plus, John Kerry will protect and improve Medicaid, the largest financer of HIV/AIDS care in the United States. And John Kerry will ensure the highest level of funding for the Minority HIV/AIDS Initiative (MHAI) to combat the disproportionate prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the African American community.

John Kerry also supports the Leadership Campaign on AIDS which will help put African American and gay leaders on the front lines in our community's battle. And John Kerry will increase AIDS research funding at the National Institutes of Health, CDC and other agencies, creating incentives for public and private development of AIDS vaccines and microbicides.

We will not ensure equal treatment for those living with HIV and AIDS and we will not stop its spread until will elect a leader with the vision and commitment to help fight for our community and our lives. John Kerry is that leader and we, the same-gender loving black community of America, have the power to put him in the White House.

The choice is ours. Save the date. Save one another.

90%

by the numbers by the numbers by the numbers by the

The CDC in 2003 reported that 1 in 3 urban same gender loving black ,male is HIV positive. Of this number, 90% of them are unaware of their status.

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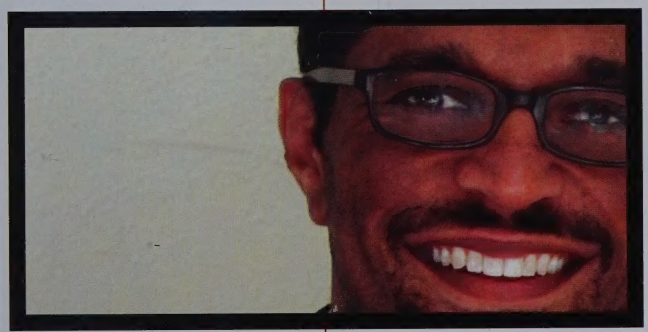
By Scott Bogan

RELATIONSHIPS & HIV:

AT WHICH POINT DO YOU DISCLOSE YOUR STATUS?

I usually try not to judge people because I don't like to be judged. Judgment is something that should be left to God and the court system. With that being said, there are certain things that I cannot and will not excuse. I will spare you my usual list and cut right to the chase. It is inexcusable to be HIV positive and not disclose your status to anyone that you are having a sexual relationship with.

Some of the new readers may not be aware of this, but I am HIV positive and I have been since 1996. In the



very first article that I wrote for CLIKQUE I disclosed my status. I decided to do this because when I tested positive it was during the time that I was watching a very close friend of mine die right before my eyes. He was dying because he never told anyone about his illness. His secrecy kept him in denial and allowed the virus to take over his body. When he finally went to the hospital, the virus was so advanced that he never came out. He died at 23. In retrospect, all of the signs were there. He was wearing turtlenecks in the summertime to cover his inflamed lymph nodes; he slept more than normal, he never had any energy, etc. We knew something was going on but we were too afraid to talk with him about it. Because of our fear and his fear, he died and I cannot help but to accept some of the blame for his death.

After his death, I struggled with understanding why he kept his status such a secret. I still don't understand this. Why is a person's status such a secret? I made a mistake. I had sex without using protection. Do people really think that I don't have sex? Or I don't make mistakes? So, I am supposed to suffer in silence? That is crazy! People that smoke and get lung cancer don't live in secrecy. Why the hell should I?

I make it my practice to disclose my status almost immediately after meeting someone that I am interested in or is interested in me. With the person that is currently in my life, I told him on the phone after talking with him for 3 hours. While he is not positive, he didn't stutter or flinch when I told him that I am. The conversation kept right on flowing. I am not saying that this is a normal reaction; it is a mature one, but not always the norm. I also am not advocating that this be everyone's practice. This is what works for me. All that I am saying is that life is about choices and people need information to make a choice. Please stop being a part of the problem and start being a part of the solution!

$$$ HIGH COST TO STAY ALIVE

Since the creation of AIDS DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (ADAPS), States have worked hard to maximize resources in order to provide medications to as many low-income and inadequately insured individuals living with HIV/AIDS as possible. In recent years, however, States have faced enormous challenges as a result of rapid growth in ADAP enrollment, the number of prescriptions per enrollee, and the cost of treatments. Much of this growth has been due to the introduction of new antiretroviral medications.

Combination antiretroviral drug therapy has proven to be highly effective in improving health, extending life and improving the quality of life for people with HIV/AIDS. As a result, the use of combination therapy and a new class of antiretroviral drugs called fusion inhibitors that add an additional $15,000 to combination therapy, have emerged as the new standard of care. However, the high cost of combination therapy-approximately $11,000 to $12,000 per patient per year excluding Fuzeon-has significantly increased pressure on ADAPs to adopt a wide variety of cost-containment strategies designed to maximize resources. These include restructuring their purchasing and distribution system, more aggressive negotiations with pharmacy benefits contractors, closer coordination with Medicaid and Medicaid waiver programs, improved data collection and tracking systems, and participation in the Section 340B Drug Discount Program.

1 IN 3

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p in a not so typical black family, I reflect upon my own youth and entree' into adulthood where, rare was the occasion that I can recall a time when either

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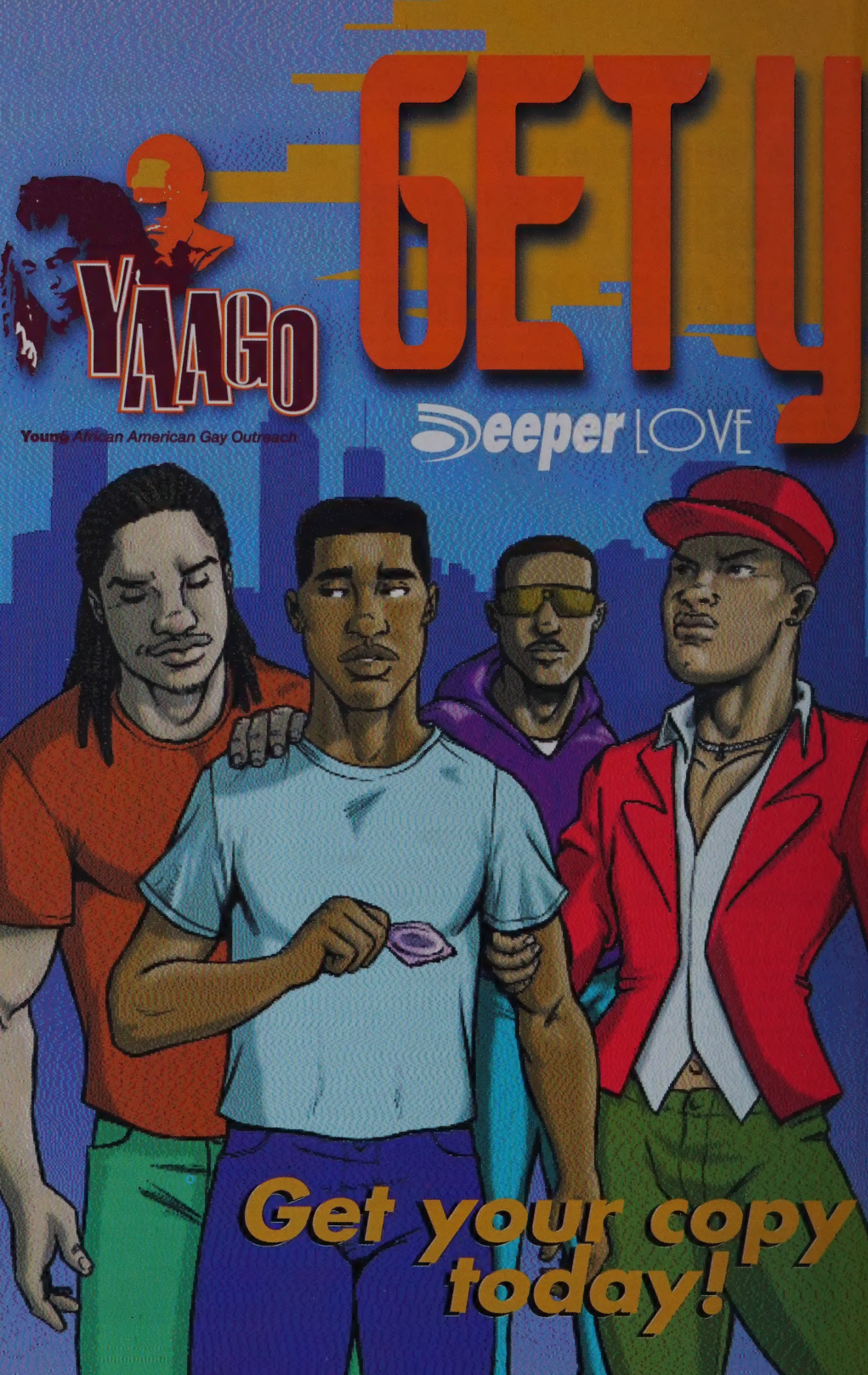
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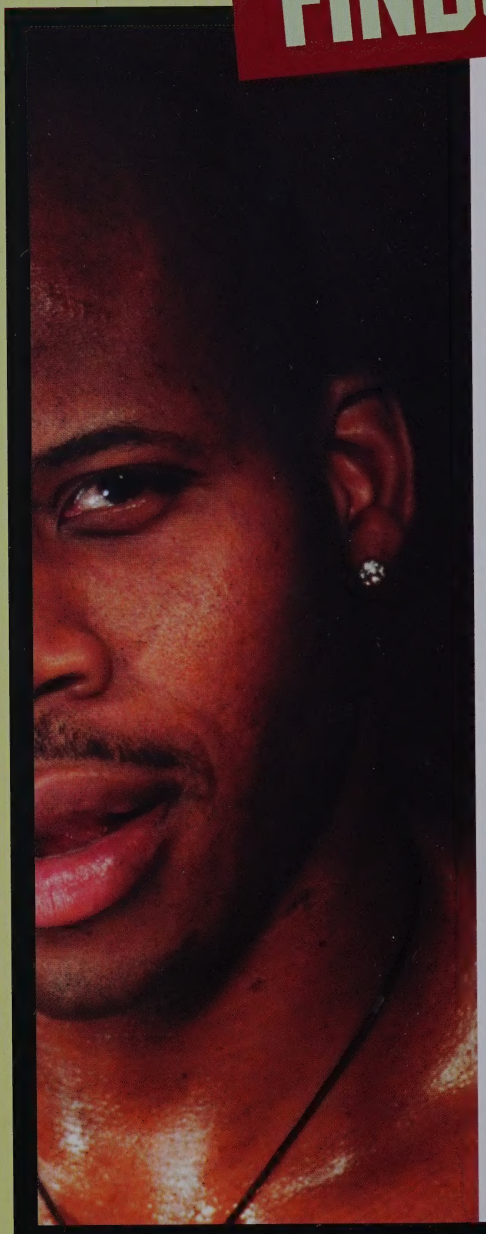


I'd been living in New York City for the past year jerking my life away. Literally: I must have slept with several hundred guys in the previous year, searching in each of them for some fulfillment, withdrawing into a world of 24 hour, instantly available, serial smut on the Web. I felt lonely and depressed and my doctor prescribed an anti-depressant in a well-intentioned attempt to medicate me out of my inertia. However, his best efforts failed -- dismally.

It was during this bout with depression that I became interested in receptive anal sex. Getting poked up the butt -- with anything, let alone a fully engorged, erect penis -- was never high on my list of things to do. But recently... I'd had a change of heart: like coleslaw or sushi, how do you know you don't like something unless you try it?

With this in mind, I made a date with Rick, a guy I met online and chatted with for over nine months before hooking up.

Rick is about as movie star gorgeous as any man I have ever known. There's something overwhelmingly persuasive about a man as attractive as him. It wasn't more than 15 minutes until we were in bed together and he was fucking me. Thinking back, I can't remember either of us ever mentioning condoms but I had told him ages ago that, "I [was] negative and I intend[ed] to stay that way".

Things progressed fairly rapidly from that point on -- we saw each other often, with escalating frequency. It wasn't long before sex dates had become traditional dates, incorporating walks in the park, dinners and sleep-overs. Nevertheless, even as romance blossomed, the primary focus was an incredible sexual attraction. We were irresistibly drawn to each other.

Losing myself in our connection, I indulged my fantasy of a devoted, loving relationship, one that embraces unsafe sex between HIV-negative partners as a physical manifestation of our intense emotional bond. I did NOT want to convert: I'm not a bug-chaser. But I had an erotic notion of semen in this context to the point that ingesting it -- the whole act of consuming and incorporating it -- became an irresistible impulse. And we acted on that impulse. The only

problem? We removed condoms from our equation before discussing HIV status or testing.

Instead of drawing us closer, it felt like our moment of unparalleled intimacy only drove us apart, as a dark cloud descended over our amorous tranquility. Suddenly, Rick wanted us both to test for HIV, "if we're going to do that kind of thing."

Which was fine by me, I suppose, as he had to be negative -- after all, I'd told him that I was and he'd been fucking me raw for weeks at this point. (I mean, he HAS to be negative, right?) I awaited the results with a familiar sense of undulating panic: of course I'm negative; oh my God, what about the time that...; everything's fine; dear Lord, I'm dying -- I can feel it growing inside me!

I got the all clear. Negative, undetectable viral load: the dream survives -- I think. Elated, I left word on Rick's cell phone, hoping he'd return my call shortly with equally wonderful news. And so I waited. And waited.

Finally, later in the afternoon, he rang to report his result. He was positive.

He sounded devastated as he told me that he'd spent the past few hours alone in a café, debating treatment options and pondering his fate, wracked with self- recriminations and doubt. I wanted to drop everything to be with him, but he wouldn't have it. He told me that I should leave him ("I'm no good for you"), that he'd kill himself if I were hurt (Oh my God, that's right: what about me?).

I went straight to my doctor to report Rick's test result. He crossed his eyes, breathed a deep sigh and advised me to immediately commence triple-combination Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP). However, he cautioned me that 10 days had past since Rick came inside me, well outside the 24-hour window within which PEP is believed to be effective.

I'm told the adverse side effects of HIV meds improve dramatically after the first four to six weeks. I wouldn't know, since PEP "only" lasts for one month -- an extremely expensive month if you don't have health insurance or you don't want your insurer to know about it. Within minutes of taking the first of so many hundreds of pills, every waking hour of that month was unbearably nightmarish. Apart from the chronic diarrhea and gassy bloating, my skin constantly felt like it was on fire and I was always exhausted.

Later that first night, tired and alone -- feeling abandoned in my misery -- I tried calling Rick to find out how he was coping and to update him on my news. But his phone was switched off and I was directed -- repeatedly -- straight to his voice-mail: "Call me -- please!" Waiting in vain by the phone, I crawled into bed that first Friday night and cried myself to sleep, trying to come to terms with my responsibility for my role in all of this.

It didn't help that my doctor was adamant that he speak with Rick's doctor immediately in order to better address my treatment -- something to do with geno-/phenotypes.

The following afternoon, Rick finally rang back -- "Oh my God, you sound so sad -- what's wrong?" (What's wrong?)

He assured me that everything was OK, he'd been meditating and had decided to come back to the city on Sunday -- he'd meet me at the pier dance (Gay Pride -- how intimate!). We ended up back together and I felt as if love would see us through this horror. We comforted each other as we settled into our respective drug regimens, gently trying to adjust to our new circumstances. Slowly the old rhythms returned and we resumed an approximation of our prior existence.

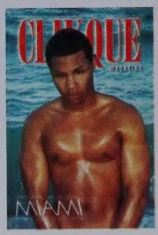
A few weeks later, I came across some of his medication bottles. The prescriptions had been filled a full week before we even tested, about the time he ejaculated inside me.

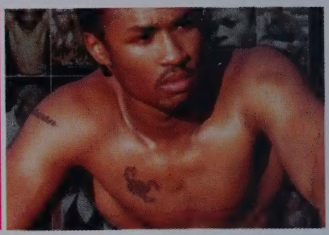
When I confronted him. He told me the truth. He'd known that he was positive for eight months. He just didn't know how to tell me. And he'd assumed that I had to be positive too if I let him fuck me raw -- and cum inside me. He didn't want to hurt anyone, least of all me, he said. He really did love me and was mortified by what he had done, he added. Would I ever forgive him?

I did, but things would never be the same again.

The lesson I learned is this: people, even good people, and those who say they love you, sometimes lie about really important things. Sometimes the lies are by omission and sometimes they're outright, bold-faced lies. And sometimes we even lie to ourselves.

When it comes to HIV-status and disclosure, by the time you finally get to the truth, you may have already put yourself or your loved ones at grave risk. Assumptions should never be made about the HIV status of your sexual partners. However dreamlike sex may feel, serious health risks and responsibilities accompany it.





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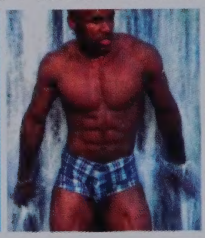
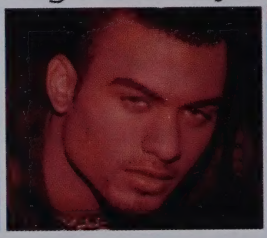
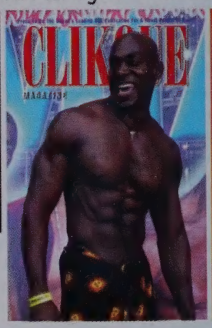

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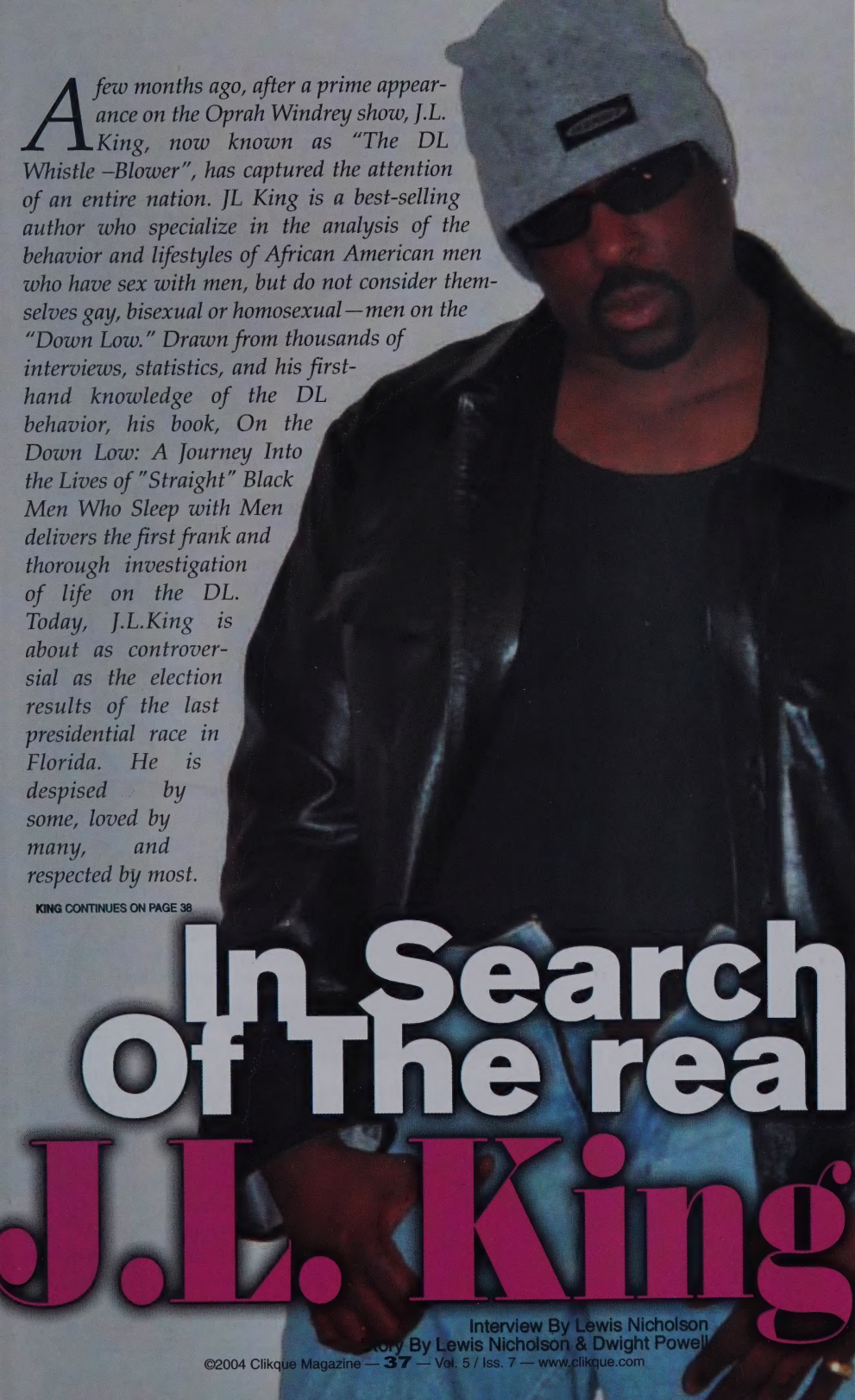


A few months ago, after a prime appearance on the Oprah Windrey show, J.L. King, now known as "The DL Whistle –Blower", has captured the attention of an entire nation. JL King is a best-selling author who specialize in the analysis of the behavior and lifestyles of African American men who have sex with men, but do not consider themselves gay, bisexual or homosexual—men on the "Down Low." Drawn from thousands of interviews, statistics, and his first-hand knowledge of the DL behavior, his book, On the Down Low: A Journey Into the Lives of "Straight" Black Men Who Sleep with Men delivers the first frank and thorough investigation of life on the DL. Today, J.L.King is about as controversial as the election results of the last presidential race in Florida. He is despised by some, loved by many, and respected by most.

KING CONTINUES ON PAGE 38

In Search Of The real J.L. King

Interview By Lewis Nicholson
Story By Lewis Nicholson & Dwight Powell

KING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37

After the books release, women began to wonder if their men could be in the closet putting them at risk of HIV infection. Heterosexual men, found it necessary to prove their manhood to their wives and girlfriends. And gay men felt a sense of betrayal after being accused of spreading HIV to the DL men, who in turn gave it to their unsuspecting wives and girlfriends. The bottom line here is, that one way or another J.L. King has written a book that affects the lives of all black people. Talk about finding the right topic, at the right time.

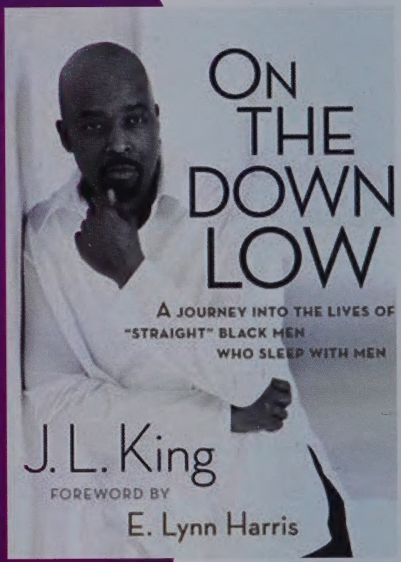
The "DL", a term popularized by hip-hop culture, came to be applied to anyone keeping a sexual relationship secret. It's been appropriated by out gay and bisexual men in the African-American community, as well as by men who have sex with men outside of their primary straight relationship but do not identify as gay or bisexual. Essentially, men on the DL lead double lives.

But even as it's a contested term, the DL can describe a certain African-American cultural specificity—attraction is most often based on both men being immersed in a "straight" ethic of masculinity: Some men on the down low distance themselves from the "gay" label, because of the stigma around homosexuality in African-American communities, and, sometimes, because they reject any affinity whatsoever with gay culture.

This past summer, Clikque had the esteem pleasure to chat with Mr. King about his book and newly found celebrity status. He first shares with us the fact that his primary reason for writing the book was not for fame or fortune, but rather to help the black community, particularly women. Mr. King stressed that Black men on the DL have to become a lot more forthcoming with their wives and girlfriends about their identity.

"I started my journey four years ago. It was not to write a book. I am not a writer. God gave me the opportunity t o tell this story. Even today the success of the book blows me away, especially when I think of trained writers who have not achieved this level of success. I prayed and realized that this was something I had to do. I was a total unknown, it was not to get rich, it was to tell my story," explains J.L. King.

Mr. King is a national HIV prevention educator, activist, author, and producer who specializes in the analysis of the behavior and lifestyles of African American men who have sex with men, but do not consider themselves gay, bisexual or homosexual—men on the "Down Low." He has interviewed over 2,500 men who are living on the DL.



In keeping with his original plan of telling his story and helping his friends working in the HIV field, Mr. King has started the Ally Macon foundation, which supports organizations in need of financial assistance in the fight against HIV. "I'm particularly interested in helping agencies that are struggling to keep their doors open," explains King.

When asked about the title of the book he was quick to explain that the title needed to be catchy and appealing to the masses. Many in the gay community took issue with the title of the book which suggests that these married men that are sleeping with other men are straight. Most gays will tell you that if a man sleeps with another man, then he's gay. That is an age old debate which King acknowledges but said this in his defense," Everyday-people will be able to understand, it was an attention

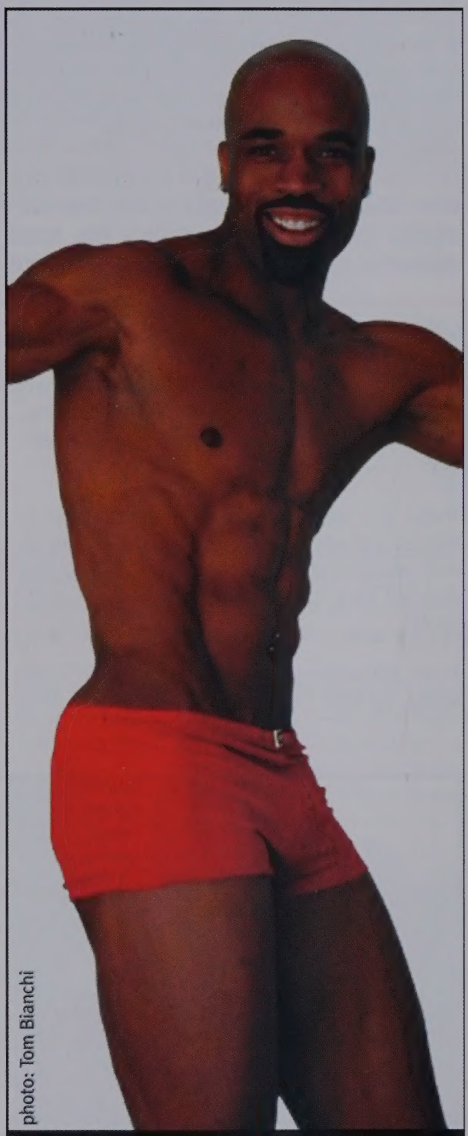
getter, I hope people will understand that I was trying to make the book readable." So we can end the debate over the title of the book being erroneous. King acknowledges that men who sleep with men, may appear straight but they are not.

Shots were heard across the globe from gay and mainstream media when his book was released. The world was consumed by talk of the DL movement and King was on his way to stardom. A status he says that he can do without, especially because the message he's carrying is undeniably far more important than the celebrity status he has garnered. With the increasing rate of HIV/AIDS cases among black women, King felt compelled to tell his personal story—living with his wife and daughter as a DL husband and father for many years.

As women welcome his insight and book with open arms, gay men tend to be some of his harshest critics. According to King, "Black gay men are my biggest detractors. I am not talking about them so I don't understand why they seem to hate me. I am addressing men who generally love pussy more. Gay men are jealous of my being on TV. There were some angry, pissed off, bitchy gay men who met me once at Dr. Ron Simmons, Director of Us Helping Us home. I addressed the pandemic, played on their emotions and their feelings for their mothers and sisters and when I was done they were hugging me in support of my work." The fight with gay black men is not over, but if you were to meet J. L King you may very well feel differently about him.

Recently, Clikque Magazine printed an article written by a woman who claims to have met J. L. King in Charleston, SC at a conference. She stated that King's HIV positive status had caused him and his family great pain. After reading the article, King called the Clikque office to clarify his HIV status. We were informed that this vicious rumor of him being positive had surfaced over a year ago on the internet. "I am not HIV positive, My ex-wife is not HIV positve, and my daughter is not HIV positive", explains King. King is still trying to track-down the source of the fabricated story that has caused great pain to himself and his family, and loss of close friends.

KING CONTINUES ON PAGE 40



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KING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 39

DL men have been around for ever. The topic isn't new to most, so we asked Mr. King, to tell us what is it that makes him and his story so special. This is what he had to say: "I am a good looking black man, father and husband. Plus I am desirable. It was my season and I was the chosen one to tell this story. Women did not believe their men had sex with sissies, but they believe their men would have sex with J. L."

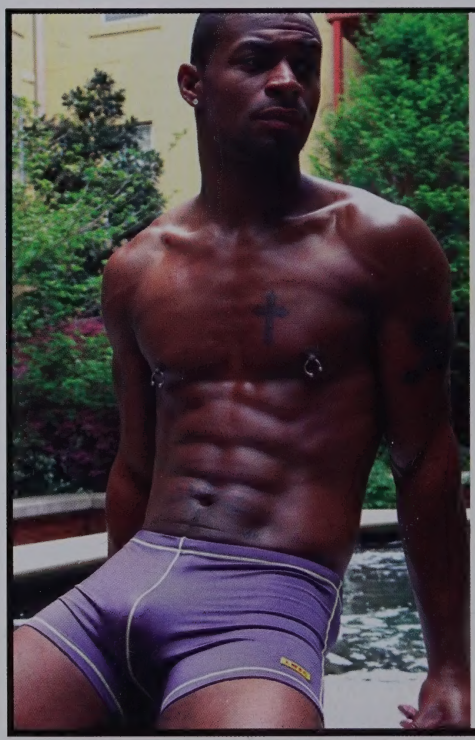
> **"I was reminded of my journey as a fledgling prostitute - how absolute blood lust had coerced me to travel back nightly into the streets, selling life; seed, thus igniting a genocidal hatred of my own flesh and spirit"**

Today J.L. king has a special friend who is female and accepts him for who he is. She is well aware that he has a thing for ass and dick but they have a mutual respect for each other.

To his detractors, King had this to say, "If I was white, by now I would be having dinner with the President, streets named after me. I would be a national hero, if I was trying to save white women's lives. So please let me be." J.L spoke very candidly about his work and his life. There was a sense of urgency and a sense of earnestness in his tone, as well as pride in his accomplishments.

In April 2005, King will publish yet another book. The book remains untitled. "I stirred up the waters and much more needs to be learned. I learned more since the publication of this book. There is way more to be told." If you have already read this book, get ready for part two, and if you have not read the current release, get you a copy so you too can formulate an opinion based on the facts you read for yourself. Needless to say, regardless of how you feel about J. L. King, it is undeniable that this man's work has affected you in one way or another.

Kudos to king for having the insight to incite such a reaction in all of us.



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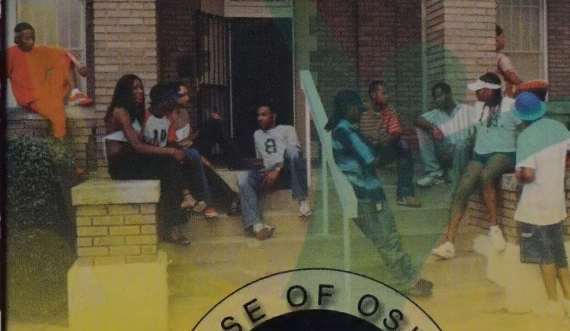

The House of Osiris offers great opportunities for young people. They can stop in to take advantage of outstanding activities like playing pool, video games, or to use our computer lab.

They can drop by to share their ideas and plan for upcoming events, listen to music or simply to watch the latest movies on DVD. In addition, young people can take advantage of computer software training, television production training, as well as take part in life skills and self-empowerment courses. It is our hope that through the cooperative efforts of youth and staff, education and a loving environment, our youth will be forces to be reckoned with in today's society.

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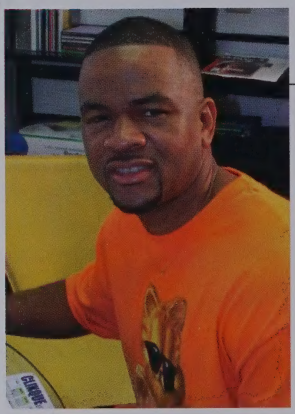
Written By Lewis Nicholson



WHO IS TO BLAME?

"If you love me, you would do it. My test just came back negative; I would never cheat on you. I am clean. You don't have anything, do you? " These are just as few examples of the things we hear, before we are propositioned to engage in unsafe sexual practices.

Some people have had several HIV positive boyfriends and or partners and to this day are still HIV negative. Others have been positive for years and are still asymptomatic. Others have found the drug that woks for them and still there are others who suffer and die from the disease.

I will not quote statistics as this particular issue of Clikque Magazine is filled with numerical data. I will look at the issue of, who is to blame?

I sat and listened as a buddy of mine Jon, explain how he hated Gerard, the man who gave him HIV. He was angry and distraught. The venom he was spewing was unimaginable. I asked him why he was so mad at Gerard and he said, "wouldn't you be, if he gave you HIV?" I thought to myself, no girl, as promiscuous as I have been, I have no right being mad. But that is just me. Jon went on to tell me, that Gerard made him go with him to get an HIV test and his test came back negative. Gerard told him, his was negative too and he foolishly decided to engage in unprotected sex with him for the duration of their relationship. On his next bi-annual visit, after only having had sex with Gerard, Jon tested positive. He went home and threw a bitch fit and rightfully so. Would you believe that Jon's boyfriend had the nerve to tell him, that he had been positive for years, but figured if he shared the virus with him, they would be together forever? The unmitigated gall of some people!

Needless to say Jon still dumped Gerard and now at 25 years old has to live with the knowledge that he is HIV positive. He has adjusted to his new life as an HIV positive man, but he could still have been negative had it not been for that liar he once called boyfriend and his own naivete. On further questioning, Jon revealed that since he never cheated, he trusted Gerard to do the same. So the question here is, who is to be blamed? Gerard for lying or Jon for trusting Gerard with his life.

People claim there are some innocent victims. Implicit in that statement is the notion of deserving victims. Who are these people who deserve HIV? You could not possibly be talking about my handsome, gorgeous, delectable, fine ass brothers, who enjoy a good romp in the hay? Yes, I am talking about the promiscuous ones amongst us. Because I enjoy sex and I do it freely with the next fine brother; does that mean I should contract HIV? I am human too and I too deserve a long and happy life. Promiscuity is a result of many different things, one of them being a lack of self-love and self worth. It is difficult for us to accept that we are self-hating but our promiscuity is an attestation to that fact. I am currently involved in a relationship and so I am no longer the poster child of promiscuity. But do I deserve to contract HIV? And if I did, who am I to blame when I was the one who made the decision to have multiple partners?
The truth of the matter is that all victims of HIV are innocent. No one deserves to be infected. Despite our actions and our many flaws we all deserve to be spared. It is time for us, to talk with our partners about HIV status before the sex begins and not after the test results come back.

There are a few instances when you can point the finger and blame a certain person for your HIV infection, but what good is it going to do?

There are a few murderers out there passing the disease off to others knowingly. Let us hope they will stop this behavior, even though they too may have once been unknowing victims of a killer boyfriend.

So this month, I encourage you to act responsibly and take the matter of your life into your own hands. If you are negative, practice safer sex and remain that way. If you are already positive, take care of yourself to remain healthy. Until next month, when I get to write about something more fun, work hard, play harder and remember to be safe.

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ASK Bianca

Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder, but in my case, it lies all over my face. Oops, my bad. Hello darlings, it's me again, your girl Bianca Buchannan. Sitting untold and perched near this computer as my assistant Francine is typing my dictation. I usually type the column myself, but since I learned that my do girl has a degree in American Literature and can type I may never touch another work-related keyboard.

The summer is almost over and it has been a good one for me. Most of you are headed towards Atlanta to salvage your youth, promote your promiscuity or serve a runway at the functions. I for one will be perched at a spa in the south of France getting me a milk bath surrounded by hung French men. Speaking of hung men I got a phone call from Killer last week. Out of the blue he decides to have a friend of his three-way me from lockdown where he is locked up for trying to get me that last diamond that would have completed my set. Too bad he got caught or he would still be enjoying this hot coochie. He sounded like he may have turned into a batcatcher in there and that will not work with me when he is released.

I had to fess up and tell him that someone had been keeping his bed warm. Truth be told there is no hope for killer and me. The new man in my life has an equally big piece and foreskin. Killer is cut and these days I like the foreskin, so when I go to the beach or if it is raining I can wear it over my head like a bonnet.

Let me get on to this month's letters as Francine and I have hair appointments in 30 minutes.

Dear Bianca,

My friends can't take me. They say that I am a Dinge queen because I only date black men and I am a JAP. My parents have no problem with me dating outside my race but my friends want to know what can a black man offer a Jewish princess such as myself. What should I do?
Michael Feinstein

Dear Michael,
You know exactly what to say to those girls. First off, they are racist and you should slap them for even using the word dinge to refer to good, black dick. As for what a black man can offer you, take notes. You already know this, but let me put it on paper so you can repeat it to your girlfriends. A black man can offer you a nicely sculptured body and a huge dick that will stay rock hard for you to gag on nightly. Also, as the song says, " My boyfriends back and he's gonna save my reputation." remember when you date a black man your song becomes, " My boyfriends black and he's gonna kick your ass, hey nah hey nah my boyfriends black." In any event sweetie, your friends are jealous that they don't have the gall to ride a giant black cock on a regular basis. While your friends turn green I will remain beautiful.
Love B.

Dear Bianca,

I am a DL brotha who reads this awesome magazine in my bathroom on a regular. My girl's brother has been staying with us for a couple months and he gets it every month. I have fallen in love with your cattiness and though I have never seen you, I can imagine how beautiful you must be. From your description. I don't want my girl or her bro to find out that I read this gay book but I had to write to let you know that I

MAIL

Bianca is interested in helping you solve some of the greater mysteries of life. Write her at Clikque Magazine,
1001 North Federal HWY, Suite 365, Hallandale, FL 33009
Or email her C/O Clikque1@aol.com

am falling in love with you. I would love to work your titties over with my tongue and give you some of this good stiff dick. Peaces out my sweet biscuit.
Your boy Mo

Dearest Mo,
Thanks for your letter and your being charmed by my beauty. You are a sick fuck. I will not ever get involved with another DL man. The only DL man I want is the one who stays down low below my waistline at all times. I like my men manly, thuggish, prison types but they must know fully well that they like girls like me. Self made women not born fish. You are indispicable and I hope your girl finds out that you are a bottom that is getting fucked by her brother. I did my research; you and your girl's brother are both slime. Don't write to me again unless it is to tell me of my infinite beauty.
The ever beautiful Bianca

Dear Bianca,

I have been incarcerated for 10 years and I just started receiving Clikque magazine. A friend said he knew you and sent me your picture. You are gorgeous. I want to get with you.
Please write me back
Big L.

Dear Big L.
Thank you.
The ever devastating Bianca

Dear Bianca,

I ran in a pageant recently and did not make the top twelve. My friends said I was robbed. Do you think I should write a letter to the owners to let them know how upset I am? This was the second time my friends say I got duked.
Flawless in Atlanta

Dear Flawless,
You have no friends. Twice you did not make it out of the prelims? Girl, you need a friend who will tell you how much of a mess you are, rather than lying to you about your being duked.

Your so-called friends are the ones working you girl. Trust me on this one, you were never prepared enough to make the twelve. Besides, I thought you girls ran to win not just make the twelve.

My advice is not to write a damn thing to the pageant owners. Prepare properly for next year's pageant and get one good friend to tell you the truth.
Love Bianca.

That's it for this month.
Until next month, on these same pages, of this pristine magazine. I remain forever flawless.
Bianca.

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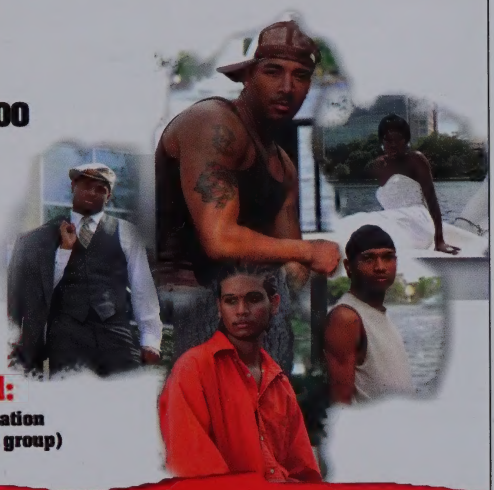
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Written By Lisa Knicherson

CLIKASCOPE

GETTING YOUR MONTH OFF TO A GREAT START

ARIES

It is time to make that move girl. The time has come for you to be all that you have dreamed of being. You have the raw talent and natural ability to succeed. The problem is that, you do not know how great you are at what you actually do. This month you will be given all that you ask for, so just go ahead and ask.

TAURUS

So you made the commitment and now you have to stick with it. Relationships are not easy, but you can work to make it all you want it to be. You may have made the decision to commit too soon, but is it really? I am not sure that you made the right decision, but you certainly have what it take to make the decision right. Go for it.

GEMINI

So you have been inconvenienced by yet another situation over which you have no control. You are handling it really well. I am here to tell you that, it will all soon be over and your life will be back on track before you know it. You have a good heart and you are a hard worker. Success is yours to enjoy.

CANCER

Lordy, lordy, just when you thought it was over it continues to rain. You are a strong girl and as Gloria Gaynor says, you will survive. You have come a long way with the reinvention of self. Don't let this one set back overturn all the strides you have made. Hold your head up and continue to shine. Remember that you are a star.

LEO

You have taken on more than you can chew. Remember to take smaller bites in the future. Many people are depending on you. You are success driven and will accept no less than perfection, but remember that very few people have your level of skill and or talent. This month you will come to terms with your reality and life will begin to be smooth for you.

VIRGO

Darling, it is your turn to step into the limelight. You are sexy, smart and talented. The man in your life is happy with you and you can do no wrong. You continue to badger yourself, but it is time to stop. In the name of love be happy with all the goodies you have in your basket and be thankful that you are still shining.

LIBRA

You are being selfish and you need to stop. The me, me, me, syndrome you have learned so well is hurting others. Think about the other person for a change. While you are gifted and life does revolve around you, people are beginning to tire of taking second place to your every whim and fancy.

SCORPIO

It is wise for you to tell the folks why you are mad at them or why you are holding that grudge. You left the boy, he did not leave you, so why are you acting that way. You are the sexy one, but how about trying some care and loving-kindness this month? You will be surprised at how good it makes you feel.

SAGITTARIUS

You have been a good girl, now accept the tiara. You have become so charming and good willed that no one can resist you. Continue to do good, as you will reap all the benefits of your hard work and good behavior. A lot of people are envious of you, but even they, have to be somewhat happy at your recent success.

CAPRICORN

You have held it in long enough. Let it all out girl. You have a heart of gold and everyone is prepared to treat you like the princess that you are. Your culinary skills will serve you well this month as the man you have been waiting for is coming to dinner. Make sure you are ready to claim what is yours.

AQUARIUS

Okay, so you continue to dazzle the kids with your brilliance. Many are envious of you and are hell bent on getting you involved in trifling gossip. You are way bigger than those petty things, so be the man of substance that you are and rise above it all. You will always be at the top of your game and the kids will always be jealous of you.

PISCES

Your timing is impeccable and for that your get a letter grade of A. Your friends will be very appreciative of your kindness and good cheer. The boy you just released, may be not have been the one for you in the first place. You have always had the gift of discernment so continue to use it, as you ensure your own happiness. Live girl live!

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How to Make the World a More POZitive Place

*** You are in "**Hook-Up South Florida**" ***

HIV: Hey, what's up ?

Syphilis: I am, lol. Wanna Hook Up ?

HIV: Absolutely, same place and time?

Syphilis: Yep, just follow my lead.

HIV: I try my best, lol.

PnPTina: Hey Boys, can I join in ?

HIV: Hell yeah Tina, you're always welcome to further the cause, lol.

>>>>> End of Chat Sequence <<<<<

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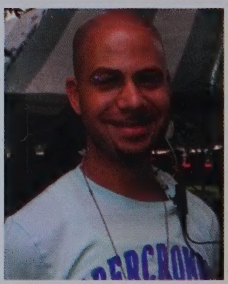
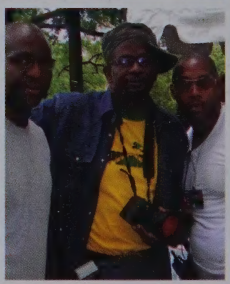
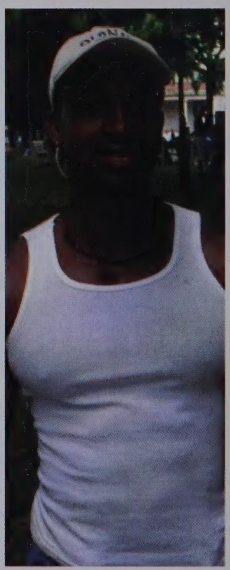
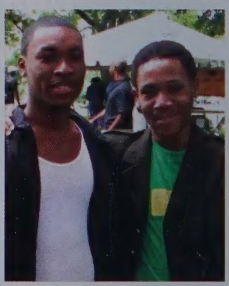
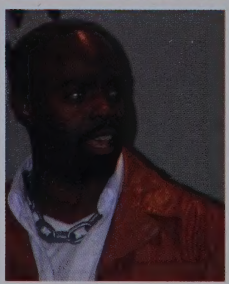
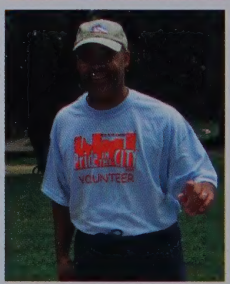
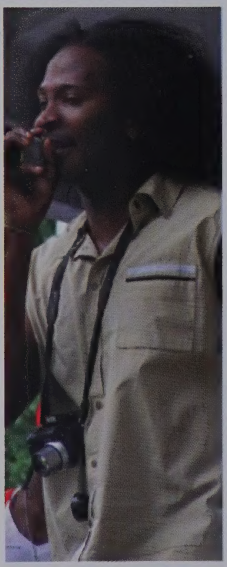
People Of Color In Crisis Black Pride – Brooklyn NY

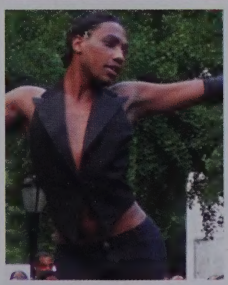


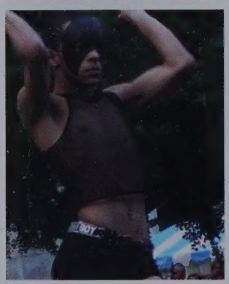


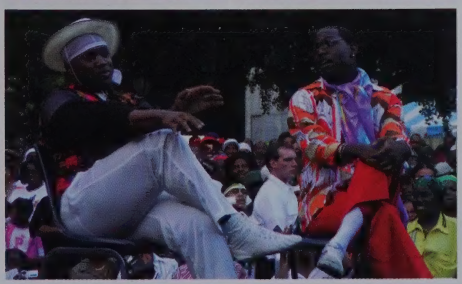


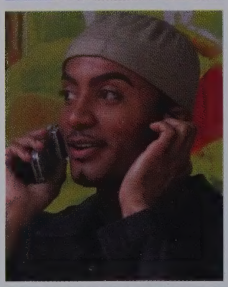






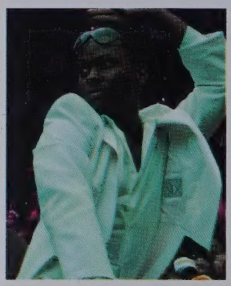




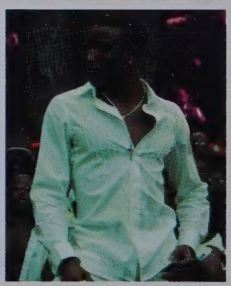


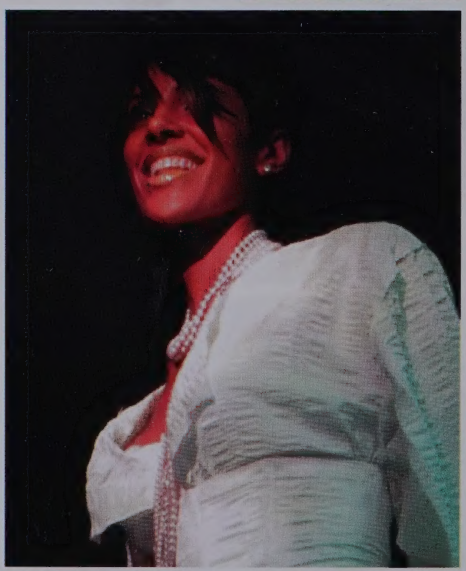


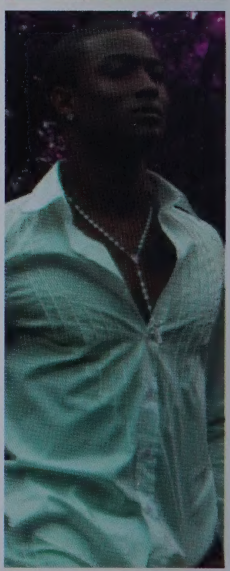
People Of Color In Crisis Black Pride – Brooklyn NY



We attended a white party in the Hamptons where celebrities, fashionistas and the wealthy elite party without a care.... we made them all gag.







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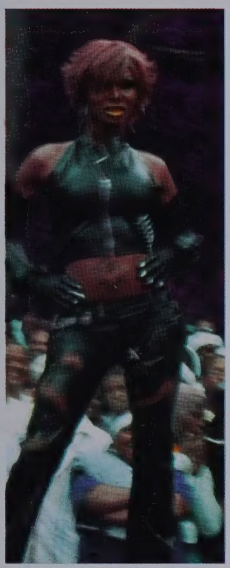

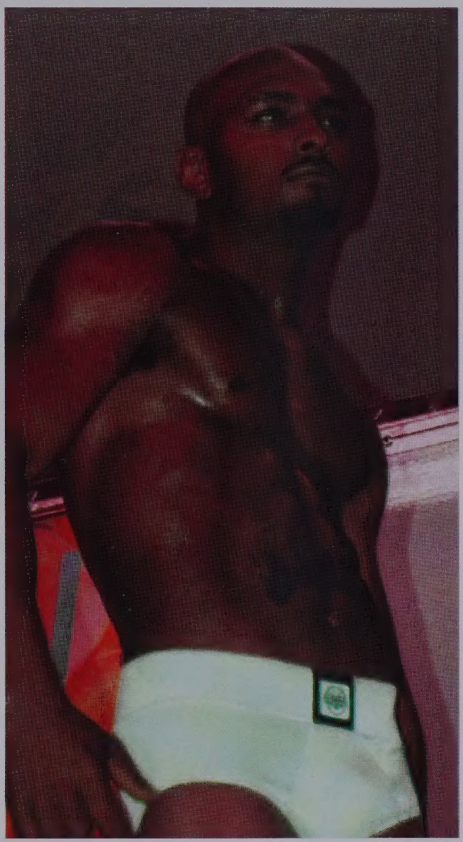

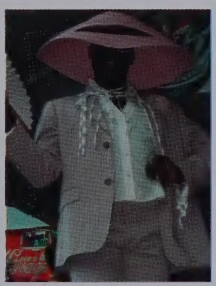

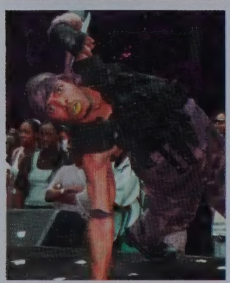

Ms. Liberty & Ebony Ball In Atlanta, Ga

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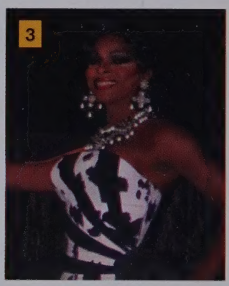
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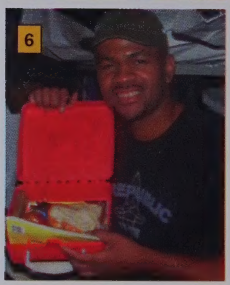
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1 Atlanta's Savannah Leigh 1st Runner-up - Ms. Liberty 2 Clikque Cover Girl Ms. Necole Luv Dupree 3 Congrats to Ms. Dominique Shapelle - Winner - Ms. Liberty 4 Clikque Magazine Cover Goddess - The Lovely Stasha Sanchez 5 bbbb bbbbbbb bbbbbb 6 Louis Nicholson showing-off his invitation to the Ebony ball - Talk about presentation, AWESOME. 7-10 scenes from the ccccc ball

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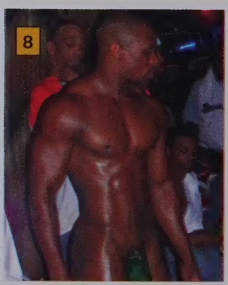
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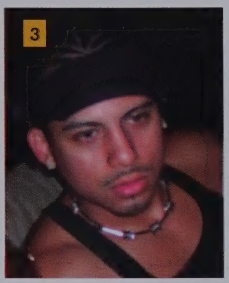
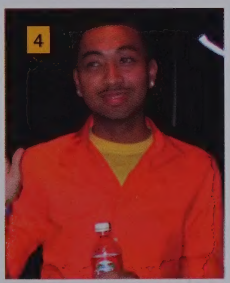
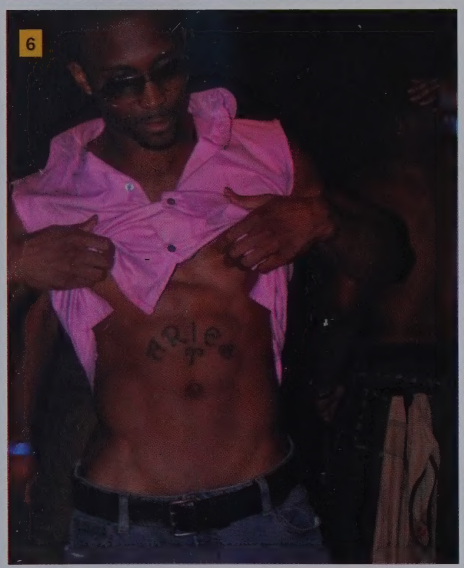
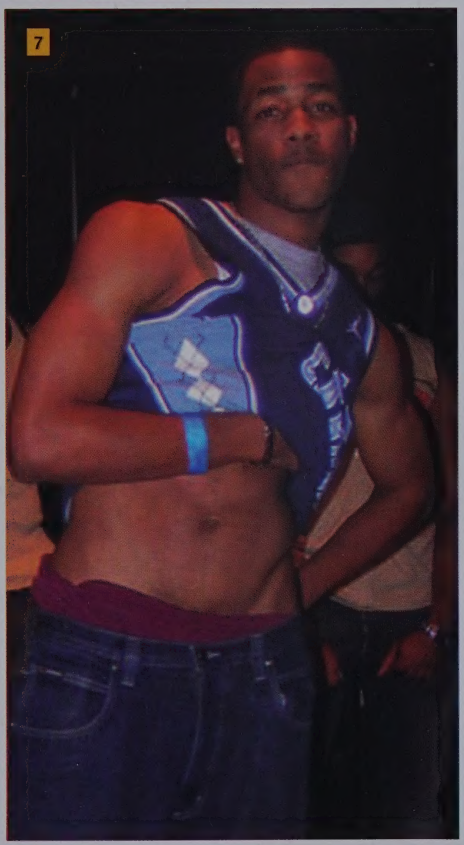
Clikque Magazine "Caliente" Party In Houston, Tx



1 Clikque Publisher Dwight Powell. **2** Ex-Destiny Child sensation Latavia w/brother and George Smith (R) **3** Sexy Louis from Miami. **4** Clikque model search contestant **5** Kentwan (R) and friend living it up at Clikque Party **6** Cover Model Search Winner - Mack **7** Next Face/ Body of Sizzle2005 in Miami **8** Sexy twins Lenard and Bernard vying for Cliqkue Magazine cover







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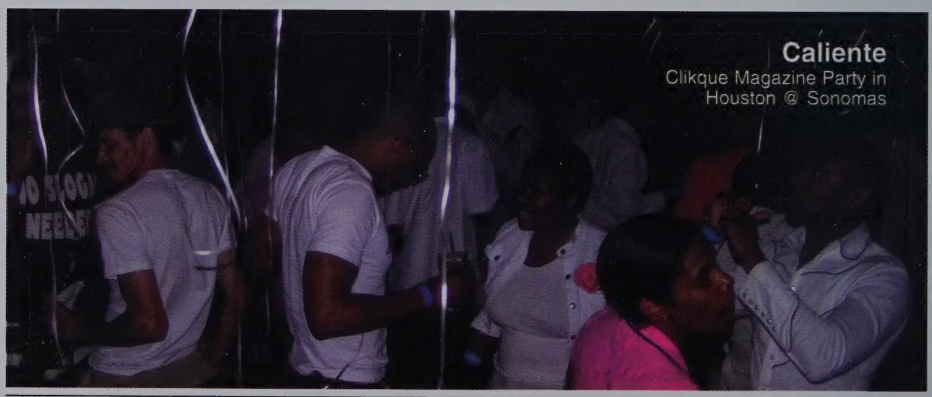

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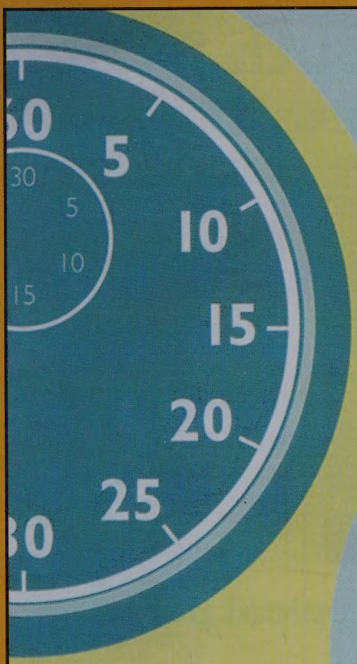

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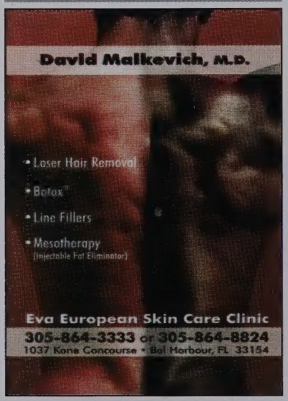

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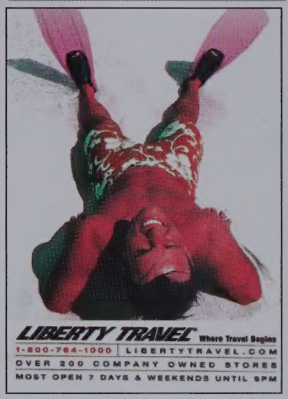
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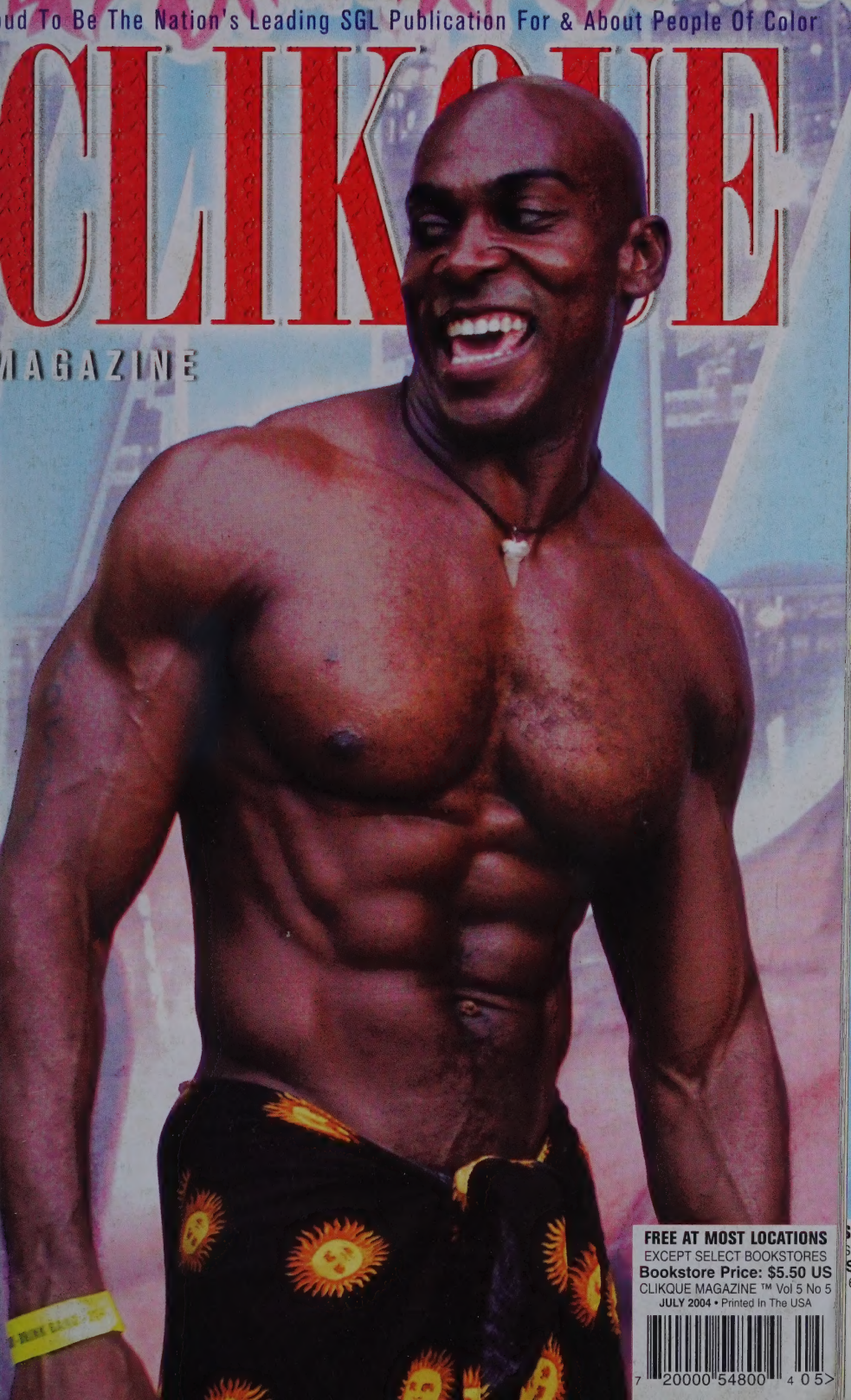

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EDITORIAL

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF DWIGHT POWELL

Second Chances

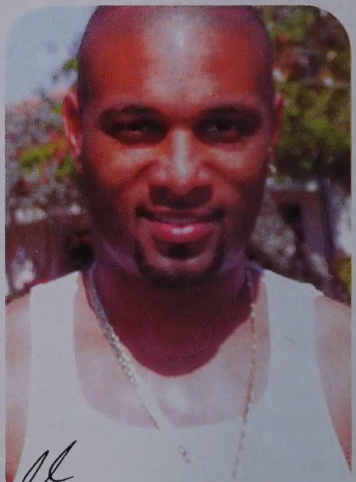
Rarely, are we given a second chance to make a good "first impression". Just recently, after hosting thousands of people from around the country at Sizzle 2004 in Miami, I realized that I was granted just that. A second chance.

You are reading, what is now our fifth consecutive issue since returning from a two-year hiatus. You have welcomed us back into your hearts and for that I am very appreciative. I was going to write about a different topic in this issue, until I read an article written by Lewis Nicholson (on page 8) in which he shared with us very personal feelings and experiences. After reading that article, I realized that he and I had experienced some rather similar turn of events in our lives over the past few years. Unlike him, I didn't have a complete breakdown, but my spirit, drive, energy, and always positive outlook was at it's all time lowest.

In mid 2001, Clikque Magazine was at the top of its game. We were the nation's number one black gay publication. We sponsored the hottest events and had managed to acquire an extremely favorable reputation. In the blink of an eye, I allowed tons of negative energies to change all that. Without getting too personal, since I often keep a lot in, I would just say that "S.A.D." and bad relationships got the best of me.

By November of 2001, I had lost most of what I had worked so hard to attain at Clikque Magazine, and Banjee Magazines. I left Hotlanta and took refuge in the Sunshine State, in an attempt to find myself.

Now, two and a half years later, Clikque Magazine is again atop of the black gay media market, Banjee Magazine is back in it's previous role as America's leading erotic male publication. And Sizzle Miami has proven to be one of America's must experience events.



None of this came easily, I have learned a lot over the years. Sometimes we need to hit rock bottom to really appreciate what we have and to recognize who our true friends are. People often say, that we should never burn bridges, because they may need to be traveled again in the future.

For the most part, I do agree with that statement. However, while we should not burn those bridges, we must sever ties with some of the people and things we met across those bridges. We must learn to say enough, when we have had enough.

And the rejuvenated, more positive me is doing just that. Thank you black gay America for giving me that second chance.

Dwight Powell

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>>>>> End of Chat Sequence <<<<<

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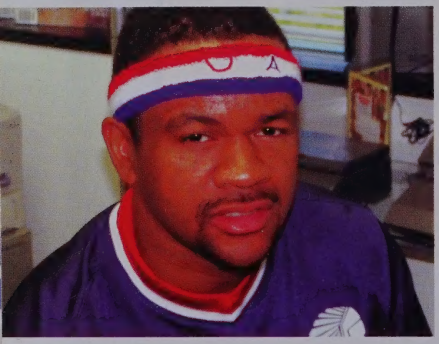
By Lewis J. Nicholson

Sometimes in our lives we encounter unexpected events that change the course of said lives forever. These are often positive occurrences but in many instances they have a negative impact on our existence.

Last year I got a severe dose of depression. Something, I thought I was immune to and could never comprehend. I used to laugh at girls who claimed they were depressed. I would think to myself, just go get some dick or ass and that will solve everything. But I got a true wake up call and today I am fully aware that



depression is real not mild, or imagined but very real.

The interesting thing about it is that we do not recognize depression until it has consumed us and we are at the point of almost no return.

Last August, I lost my mentor and very close friend. During our five year friendship he taught me many things that I continue to live by today. I knew he was dying but neither he nor I wanted to accept that and up to the point of his death, we never discussed it. One thing is for sure though, that after I eulogized him in a glowing ceremony I tried to go on with my life like his death was just another daily event.

Two weeks later I competed in the Mr. Continental contest and it was on final night that I realized that I needed my friend Logan Holt and that I had not mourned him enough. I was in denial and it all came upon me during the talent segment of the final night competition.

I returned home and quit my job at the night-club (The Palace) my friend owned where I was also a manager. Going into the Palace had become very stressful as I expected to receive a phone call with yet another request from Logan.

So, I left and tried working elsewhere. Within three weeks of my leaving The Palace, my Fashion Editor, Justice Felani who worked with me on Glitter and Glamma Magazines decided he had had enough of this world and he too was leaving.

I remember Andre Givenchy doing a memorial for Justice at the mini ball that Wednesday night and there is little I want to remember after that. During the weeks that followed I had no desire to live. I could not get out of bed except to go to the Lions Den where I was a Bartender on Sundays. I put on my Sunday face and very few knew that I was just a functioning depressed person. I lost my car to the repo-man even though my brother was willing to make the payments. I was late on every bill even when I had the money. I was lonely and alone. When you have spent the last five years having lunch, working and promoting events with someone their leaving creates an unimaginable void.

Logan used to remind me daily how promiscuous we were as gay men and after a while my friend Robert and I would refer to each other as promiscuous. I miss those days.
Near the end of last year my family who insisted I move to Florida to get my life together or to fade away rescued me.

Well, today I am pleased to say that South Florida has been really good for me. My life is back on track; I no longer want to just die. I am working three jobs. I like all my jobs. I am back at Clikque Magazine. My relationship with Dwight Powell has been mended and I now work for him as his Business Manager. I am also working with the men over at Club Boi, Miami's best Gay Black nightclub. I am also serving popcorn at a movie theater where I get to hire, promote and fire nice young boys. Well I hire girls too since the beauty of women I will always appreciate. I make time to smell the roses and I go to Haulover Beach to sun my bare ass and swim in the nude from time to time.

I have some relationships to mend, but in the mean time I am working on surviving. I am not sure to what I need to credit my recovery, but I do know that my dear friend Rodolfo's dismissal of me from my lease was the first step in my recovery. It could have meant the end of me but it turned out to mean a new beginning.

On my ride to Florida, which I spent crying, laughing and reminiscing with my friend Rodney who drove me down from Atlanta, I realized that while I was still breathing I had to do something worthwhile with my life.

I hope that anyone that was hurt by my depression and decision to leave Atlanta will forgive me. I promise I will make it up to you guys.

My mother Niesha Dupree gave me a pep talk and led me back to the four agreements. I go back to the agreements weekly to remind myself of my purpose in life, which is to always do my best, and to be impeccable with my word.

Today as I type this column I am looking forward to lunch with my new found friend and the many opportunities that await me. If you find yourself losing you grip give me a holler so that we can prevent you from sliding as far down as I did.

As the summer continues, please remember to enjoy life and good health while you have it and ***don't forget to love like you have never been hurt and dance like no one is watching.***

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CDC Initiative Criticized

by groups left out of funding

Agency launches effort to keep people with HIV from spreading disease

Robert Janssen, director of HIV prevention programs for the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, said the federal agency wants to focus more attention on teaching people who are already HIV-positive how to avoid spreading the virus

Two-thirds of the $49 million the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention recently allocated to community-based organizations to fight the spread of HIV will fund programs targeting those already infected, a sea change in the way the federal health agency battles the virus.

The CDC announced the funding awards on May 21 as part of its "Advancing HIV Prevention Initiative." That effort, first announced in April 2003, calls for tailoring prevention messages to HIV-positive people to keep them from spreading the disease.

The traditional emphasis on safe-sex messages for HIV-negative individuals created a health and information gap for those already living with the virus, said Robert Janssen, director of the CDC's HIV prevention programs.

But some agencies that have received CDC funds in the past criticized the agency's shift in strategy and funding, dubbed "Prevention for Positives."

"Prevention dollars that we desperately need are being squandered by funding an ideological prevention strategy that doesn't work," said Jason Riggs, interim communications director for the Stop AIDS Project in San Francisco. "What we are seeing in effect is a dismantling of HIV-prevention programs for people who are negative and want to stay negative."

S.F. AIDS GROUP TARGETED

The Stop AIDS Project has been in the crosshairs of conservative lawmakers for the last three years. It was the target of various federal audits and investigations over what critics call its "obscene" prevention programs targeting gay and bisexual men.

Riggs said Stop AIDS Project received $225,000 from the CDC during the last five-year grant cycle in 1999.

"Even though in every investigation the CDC has found nothing wrong in our accounting system or programs, we feared ideology would beat out science as it has in almost every health issue across the board with this administration," he said.

Some 142 groups will share the $49 million in grants. While the amount of funding remained about the same as in 1999, Janssen said, the number of groups dropped from 189. Of the organizations that received money last month, 67 were funded in the past by the CDC.

The CDC decreased the number of groups funded "because in consultations with members of different communities they felt the award size needed to be larger in order for their programs to be effective," Janssen said.

A total of 530 groups applied for funding this year. The amount each organization receives will not be finalized until July 1, but will average about $345,000.

Metro Teen AIDS, which provides prevention messages to youth in Washington, D.C., has reduced its staff by three employees since officials learned they lost funding under the CDC's new approach.

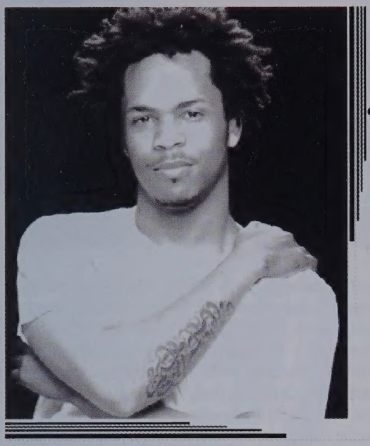
"I think that when we're talking about adolescents, the majority of that money needs to go to basic HIV prevention information," said Adam Tenner, executive director of Metro Teen AIDS. "I think the CDC is moving in the direction of telling you how to prevent HIV after you already have it."

Janssen and other CDC officials hope that delivering prevention messages to HIV-positive people will discourage sexual practices that put others at risk for contracting the disease.

The CDC also targeted regions in which HIV is most concentrated with its funding, along with providing grants to four faith-based groups. Janssen could not provide the names of the organizations.

Critics said the CDC is missing the mark with its new approach.

"The national and regional trends aren't always reflective of what's happening at the local level, and so we're very concerned local data was not included in the funding strategies," Riggs said.



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Why Reagan ignored AIDS

By Michael Bronski

College students born during the Reagan years ask: How could the president have done so little for so long while so many died? It wasn't as simple as homophobia. It was politics.

For the past two months I've been teaching a course titled "Plagues and Politics: The Impact of AIDS on U.S. Culture" at Dartmouth College, and I've spent an enormous amount of time thinking about the AIDS pandemic. So when the political flap over the historical accuracy of The Reagans—the CBS miniseries on the lives and White House years of Ronald and Nancy Reagan that was pulled from the network's lineup and dumped on its sister cable outlet, Showtime—hit the headlines, I was intrigued to see that one of the main complaints against the series was that the original script accused President Reagan of religious intolerance and prejudice against homosexuals. In a scene in which Nancy Reagan asks her husband to do something to help people with AIDS, he responds by answering, "Those who live in sin shall die in sin."

Elizabeth Egloff, who authored the script, has conceded that Reagan's answer is a fictionalized invention, and indeed, Reagan rarely employed religious sentiments or metaphors in political situations. The show's critics have made a strong, salient point: Having Reagan use the language of conservative Christianity to explain why he and his administration did almost nothing for the first seven years of the AIDS epidemic is historically irresponsible and highly misleading.

From everything that we can ascertain from the historical record, Reagan's religious background, feelings, or beliefs had nothing to do with the political response to the AIDS epidemic. Rather, his appalling lack of leadership and vision—which led directly to enormous setbacks for HIV/AIDS research, discrimination against people with AIDS, and the lack of any comprehensive outreach for prevention or education work, thus adding to the already staggering tally of deaths—was a product of indifference, disdain, self-imposed ignorance, and a political capitulation to the rising wave of a new, staunchly reactionary and religious Republican constituency that was to reshape not only the party but the state of American politics.

As we read about and discuss the history of the American AIDS epidemic in class, my students—all Reagan babies, born between 1981 and 1985—are often dumbfounded when faced with simple facts. Although AIDS was first reported in the medical and popular press in 1981, it was only in October 1987 that Reagan publicly spoke about the epidemic in a major policy address. By the end of that year 59,572 AIDS cases had been reported and 27,909 of those women and men had died. How could this happen, they ask? Didn't he see that this was an ever-expanding epidemic? How could he not say anything? Do anything?

But the public scandal over the Reagan administration's reaction to AIDS is complex and goes much deeper, far beyond the commander in chief's refusal to speak out about the epidemic. Reagan understood that a great deal of his power resided in a broad base of born-again Christian Republican conservatives who embraced a deeply reactionary social agenda of which a virulent, demonizing homophobia was a central tenet. In the media men such as Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell articulated these sentiments that portrayed gay people as diseased sinners and promoted the idea that AIDS was a punishment from God and that the gay rights movement had to be stopped. In the Republican Party zealous right-wingers such as Rep. William Dannemeyer of California and Sen. Jesse Helms of North Carolina hammered home this message. In the Reagan White House, people such as Secretary of Education William Bennett and Gary Bauer, Reagan's domestic policy adviser, worked to enact it in the Administration's policies.

What did this mean in practical terms? Most important, AIDS research was chronically underfunded. When doctors at the Centers for

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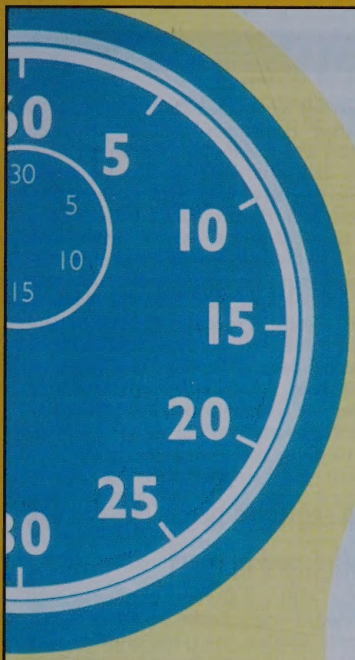

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COP Beat

Kan. court to hear appeal of gay teen sentenced to 17 years

TOPEKA, Kan. — The Kansas Supreme Court last week agreed to hear an appeal on behalf of a gay teenager who received a 17-year prison sentence for consensual oral sex, the ACLU said in a news release. Matthew Limon so far has served more than four years in prison, more than three times longer than the maximum sentence he would have received in the case if he were heterosexual, according to the ACLU. A week after Limon's 18th birthday, he performed consensual oral sex on another male teenager, who was almost 15, the ACLU said in the news statement. Limon was convicted under the Kansas "Romeo and Juliet" law, which provides lighter sentences for heterosexual teens involving sex

younger teens, but specifically excludes gay sex, according to the ACLU. "The only reason Matthew Limon is still in prison today is because he's gay," Tamara Lange, a staff attorney with the ACLU Lesbian & Gay Rights Project, which represents Limon, said in the news release. The Kansas Supreme Court likely will hear arguments in the case no earlier than August.

S.C. man acquitted in stabbing death of allegedly abusive lover

ROCK HILL, S.C. (AP) — Richard Lee Hinton was acquitted in the stabbing death of Tyrone Hammonds, a man Hinton called his lover. Hinton testified he stabbed Hammonds in self-defense after Hammonds punched him and attacked him with a knife last October. At trial, both sides concurred that Hammonds chased Hinton down the street before the stabbing. The prosecution said Hinton stabbed Hammonds then ran to avoid arrest. Several people said during the trial that Hammonds was abusive during the couple's two years together. Hinton testified he never fought back until the night of Hammonds' death. Prosecutor Phil Smith said Hammonds' family was hurt by the verdict. "I knew it would be a difficult battle," he said. Hinton's attorney, B.J. Barrowclough, said helping free Hinton "is the most satisfying thing I've ever done in a courtroom."

Fla. man convicted in gay murder has his mouth taped in court

DELAND, Fla. (AP) — A Daytona Beach man who was convicted of fatally beating a retired banker even though another man confessed to the crime had his mouth taped during his sentencing hearing last week after he repeatedly said "I didn't do it." Circuit Judge S. James Foxman ordered the taping after Richard England, 32, made repeated outbursts proclaiming his innocence, some directed at the victim's family, before the jury recommended a death sentence. Foxman is scheduled to sentence England in July. England and his friend Michael Douglas Jackson beat Howard "Cooter" Wetherell, 71, to death with a fire poker in his shower in 2001, then robbed his condominium, said prosecutors, who maintained England killed Wetherell out of anti-gay hatred. Jackson, who said he lived with the victim for about a month before their relationship soured, initially told officials that he and England had killed Wetherell, and agreed to testify against his friend. But Jackson, 21, later changed his story, taking sole responsibility for the murder. He has pleaded guilty to second-degree murder.

Gay N.J. policeman files bias suit alleging he was denied promotion

HALEDON, N.J. (AP) — A police sergeant has sued the borough and several officials, claiming he was passed over for promotion because he is gay. Sgt. James Len filed suit last week in state Superior Court against the borough, Mayor Ken Pengitore, Council member Ayman Mamkej and Police Chief Harold Engold Jr. All three defendants said they had not seen the suit and declined to comment when reached by the Herald News of West Paterson. Len is seeking punitive and compensatory damages, claiming he was subjected to a hostile work environment

because of his sexual orientation. He claims officers rigged the evaluation process to prevent him from being promoted to lieutenant. He also says fellow officers harassed him and made anti-gay comments. Len claims he asked police officials to investigate his allegations of harassment, but was refused, and that disciplinary charges filed against him last year were fabricated to discriminate against him because he is gay.

Family of strangled transgendered teen seeks posthumous name change

FREMONT, Calif. (AP) – The name on the birth certificate was Edward Araujo Jr., but the teenager preferred the first name Gwen. At age 17, before getting a chance to make the name change official, Araujo was beaten and strangled after the people she thought were her friends found out she was biologically male. Last week, Araujo's family asked a court for a posthumous name change to Gwen Amber Rose Araujo. "She's Gwen to me, and I'm her mother," Sylvia Guerrero said outside the courthouse. "This is who she was. She's transgender and she's Gwen." Superior Court Commissioner Thomas Surh called the request "a novel situation" and said he would let Guerrero know his decision in about a month. Araujo's family said she had used the name Gwen for years, convinced from an early age that her sexual and biological identities conflicted.

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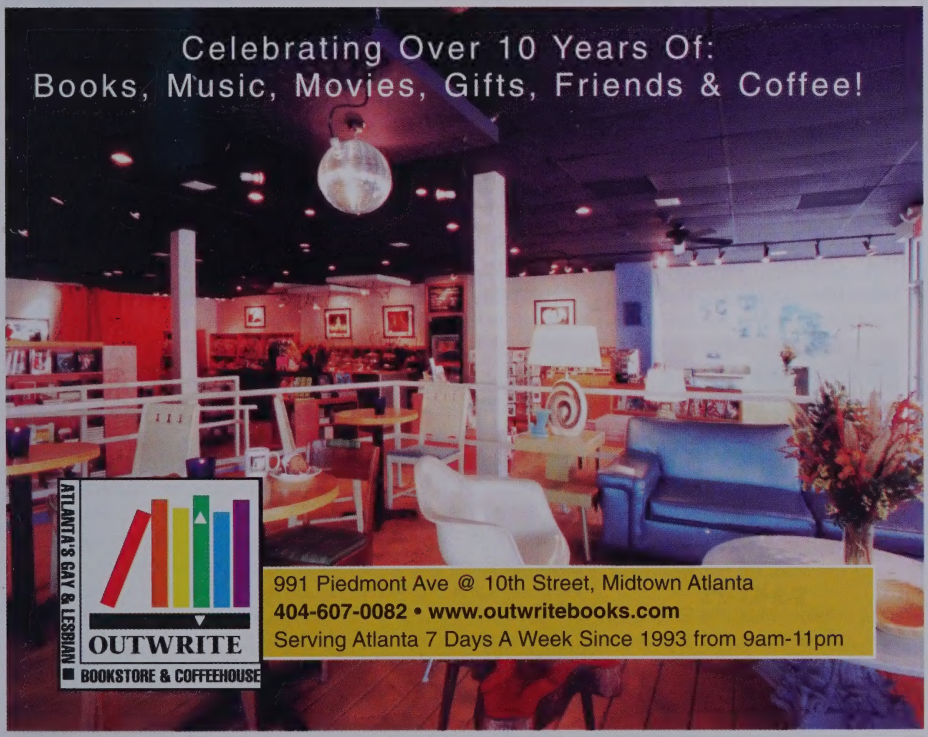
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'Six Feet' still alive

The fourth season of the HBO hit 'Six Feet Under' brings more gay characters and quirky family dynamics.

LEAVE IT TO HBO to totally reinvent the TV show promo with its recent notices about "Six Feet Under," which returned for its fourth season at 9 pm., Sunday, June 13.

For months, we've seen this commercial on the channel (and on the Web site www.hbo.com/sixfeetunder) depicting characters from the show walking through an empty supermarket lip-synching to the Nina Simone song "Feeling Good."

There's Keith (Mathew St. Patrick) watching his partner, David (Michael C. Hall), checking out another man. There's Claire (Lauren Ambrose) upsetting a bin full of oranges. And Nate (Peter Krause) is seen floating away, while Brenda (Rachel Griffiths) is walking through the parking lot alone.

Using nothing but music, atmosphere and innuendo, this promo captures the essence

SUNDAYS
9:00 - 10:00 PM ET

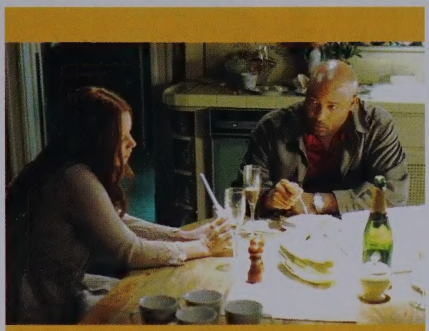
One marriage has come to a tragic end, another is beginning, and a third is on the rocks. At Fisher & Diaz, lives are in flux, as Nate, David, Ruth, Claire and Rico struggle to find their way. What's next? Find out when SIX FEET UNDER kicks off its fourth season SUNDAY, JUNE 13 (9:00-10:00 p.m. ET), with the episode entitled "Falling Into Place," followed by other editions on subsequent Sundays at the same time, exclusively on HBO. In addition, the first three episodes of this season will air back-to-back on Sunday, July 4, beginning at 8:00 p.m.

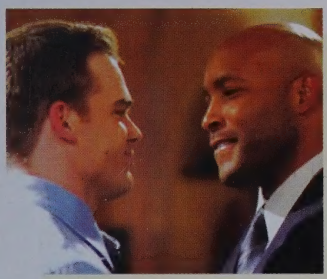
of each character, offering hints about where last season left off and setting the mood for the coming season.

What would we do without HBO?

AND WHAT WOULD we do without "Six Feet Under," the best series on television.

The fourth season begins where it left off last June — to the minute — which is a bit annoying because it doesn't acknowledge the viewers' time away from the series. Unlike last season's Nate-is-dead-but-not-really beginning, the fourth season starts with Claire, David and Keith in the kitchen of the Fisher & Diaz funeral home after their mother Ruth's (Frances Conroy) hasty marriage to George (James Cromwell).





Upclose With Keith Charles

"When someone sees you as you really are and wants to be with you, that's powerful."

Keith Charles *(right)*, the love of David's life, is charming, handsome and tough - for years he was a gay officer in the LAPD and didn't care who knew it. Being out is important to Keith, and when he and David were first dating it was a major source of conflict between them. Keith was continually frustrated because David couldn't - or wouldn't - be open about his homosexuality. So Keith broke up with David and began a live-in relationship with Eddie, a handsome emergency medical technician David referred to as "Mr. Fucking Superguy E-R."

But that relationship was short-lived. When Keith's drug-addicted sister left town suddenly, Keith brought her nine-year-old daughter, Taylor, into his and Eddie's home. Eddie moved out shortly thereafter and Keith and David, who had remained friends, started seeing each other again. Eventually, Keith asked David - who had developed a close rapport with Taylor - to move in with him.

Things were not easy for the new nuclear family. Keith believes that life is about "striving for perfection," which puts a lot of pressure on him - and everyone close to him. His powerful sense of obligation caused him to badger his sister into rehab; but later, when she killed a man in a hit-and-run accident, Keith turned her in to the authorities. When he shot and killed a man in the line of duty, Keith became a chronic insomniac and lashed out at David whenever he tried to talk about it. In another incident, Keith lost his temper while trying to subdue a suspect, beating the man and subsequently being suspended for it. Not long after, against David's wishes, he sent Taylor to live with his parents in San Diego and quit his job.

Although he and David entered therapy together, their relationship once again bottomed out and David left. Although Keith still loves David and has asked him not to give up on him, it's far from certain that their relationship will survive.

On The Big Screen

SPIDERMAN 2

RELEASE 6/30/04

It's been two years since mild-mannered Peter Parker (Tobey Maguire) first began struggling with "the gift and the curse," and in Spider-Man 2, he's still coming to terms with his dual identity as the web-slinging crime superhero Spider-Man. Now Peter's in college, and his relationships with the people he cares most about are crumbling. He wants to reveal his secret identity to Mary Jane (Kirsten Dunst), his friendship with Harry Osborn is stressed by Harry's growing hatred of Spider-Man, and Peter's Aunt May has fallen on hard times. When a new foe, Dr. Otto Octavius (Alfred Molina), appears, Peter and Spidey face a new challenge.

I, ROBOT RELEASE 7/16/04

I, Robot - The story, set in 2035, focuses on a robot-hating detective named Del Spooner (Will Smith) who is investigating the murder of Dr. Miles Hogenmiller, an employee at U.S. Robotics. As strange as it may seem, a robot named Sonny is the prime suspect; for Sonny to have committed the crime would be a violation of the basic laws of robotics. Dr. Susan Calvin, a psychologist, is helping Spooner in his investigation.

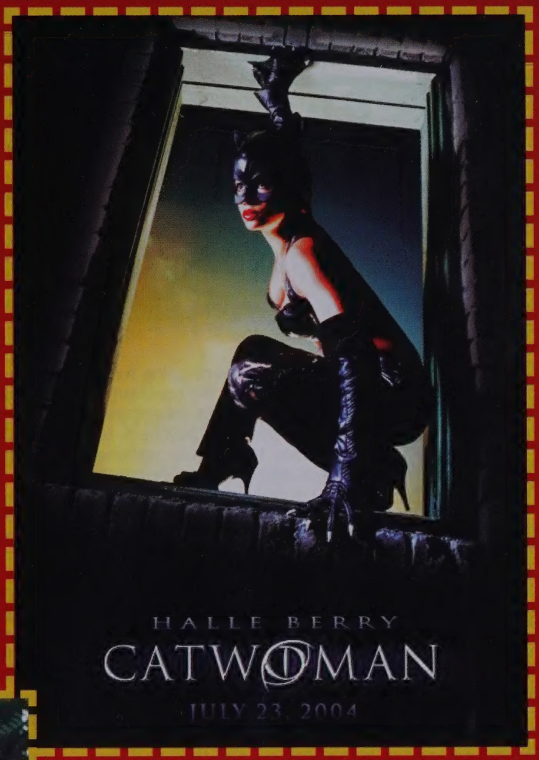
BOURNE IDENTITY RELEASE 7/23/04

In this sequel to the original Matt Damon thriller, the Chinese vice premier is killed by someone claiming to be assassin Jason Bourne. But the identity is just a cover for CIA agent David Webb, so it's clear to the U.S. government that someone else is assuming the Bourne identity. Webb is recruited to discover who's behind the killing to avert a scandal that imperils international peace.

CAT WOMAN

RELEASE 7/23/04

Graphic artist Patience Philips (Halle Berry) is murdered by the stooges of Avenal Beauty, the cosmetics company she works for, when she discovers the company's dark secret. An Egyptian mau cat whose life she saved brings her back to life, after which she assumes the identity of the titular feline superhero, seeking vengeance upon the evil head honchos who run Avenal (Sharon Stone, Lambert Wilson).



THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE

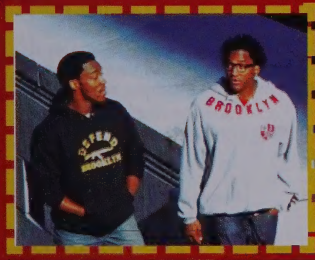
RELEASE 7/30/04

Denzel Washington and Liev Schreiber play two U.S. soldiers taken prisoner and brainwashed into becoming unwitting assassins by the enemy during the first Gulf War. They return home as heroes, though Washington's Ben Marco is troubled by dreams and vague memories of his brainwashing. Eventually, Marco remembers what has happened to him and tries to get to Schreiber's Raymond Shaw, who is running for office, to convince him of what he's remembered.

SHE HATE ME

RELEASE 7/30/04

When biotech executive Jack Armstrong (Anthony Mackie) blows the whistle on his bosses, he's left without a career. Desperate to make money, he accepts an offer from his former girlfriend (who's now a lesbian): help her get pregnant and earn $10,000. Soon, gay women looking to have children begin lining up to pay Jack for his services.



By Daryl Moch

Nubian Spirit

Becoming Your Ultimate Self: Go With The Flow

Harambee (Let us come together):

Beloved, most of our lives are spent going from crisis to crisis or thing to thing. We constantly seek out the next thrill or the next adventure. For far too many of us we live from paycheck to paycheck. Those who find themselves walking on a more spiritual path often go from religious ceremony to religious ceremony; and the strong and dedicated community minded activists of us go from event to event. Unfortunately the end result always is still wanting for the "next" thing. Did you or do you find yourself unfulfilled by the things, people, and possessions you have gathered in your life? You are not alone.

Since our earliest days we have been socialized to seek stuff outside of ourselves to fulfill the inner most desires of our souls and spirits. It often takes a lifetime of searching and gathering to determine that none of this satisfies, truly, the greatest of our yearnings. And then as if the searching was not enough we seek to avoid and correct problems and crisis as they come. In fact, we often work hard to avert a crisis before it can occur. In the meantime the seasons pass, the flowers bloom and fade away, people are born, age and transition all before we realize it and suddenly we look back and find ourselves 10, 15, 20 years older and the memories of those years have faded away.

So for a moment, this day, relax, let go, and just flow. Go with the flow of life. Enjoy the rhythms of life that surround you. Feel the breeze or the rain on your face. Smell the flowers, feel the sun, taste the food and enjoy life. What we often fail to realize is that no matter what we do life happens and will go on with or without us. So why not enjoy it along the way? Put the "things" that are happening to you into perspective- it's not going to kill you (and if it is then getting clarity and stopping it would be an appropriate response to the chaos). Let life happen and go with it. Sometimes the things that seem out of place only "seem" that way because we are out of focus. Sometimes being late may have kept you from an accident- so don't stress.

Now, I'm not telling you to be lax or nonchalant. What I am saying is to free yourself from the stress of being "right" or "perfect" all the time. Recognize that sometimes "right" and "perfect" are illusions and that just where you are right now- just who you are right now is "right" and "perfect". It's ok not to worry. Do your best - in everything that you do and that will be the right thing and the perfect thing. Go with the Flow. Don't try to force anything. From issues at work or school, to relationships, to battling forces in "high" places - just go with the flow. Life happens and the question is will life happen to you or with you? Because it is going to happen, but where do you want to be in the process? Do you always want to be catching up, trying to get ahead, robbing De'shon to pay Quita? Relax, let go, and flow- with life.

I was watching a movie the other day "Sunshine State" and an old man was telling a young teenager who couldn't swim in the ocean how to go with the flow. The young man said he couldn't swim in the ocean because there was an "undertow." The old man said, "There will always be an under tow... the secret is to not fight it..." but to go with it. He suggested that instead of working hard to stay on top and fight the natural ebb and flow of the ocean one should work with the current and allow the flow to enhance your efforts. In life this is also true. And this is my point. If we could stop fighting the forces of nature we could get into the natural rhythm of life and allow that rhythm to energize our efforts and move us along successfully. Just consider it- in every aspect of your life.

Meditate on these thoughts:
I move with the natural flow of the universe. There is no crisis or situation that can over take me or over power me. I am one with the divine energy of life and I allow myself to go with the flow. I free myself from the belief that I must live in stress or chaos. Instead I choose to live in peace and harmony with the forces of life that are here to guide me not hold me back. There is nothing that I cannot achieve when I stop, get focused, and recognize the greatness within me. I only want what is best for me and those things that are not "right" or "perfect" for me will not come to me or bother me. I no longer worry about being "right" or "perfect" because that which is will be and I am free from anxiety about it. Today, right now, I relax, let go, and flow. I am flowing with the natural rhythm of life. I am flowing. I am flowing. I am flowing. I am becoming my ultimate self.

Peace and Blessings.

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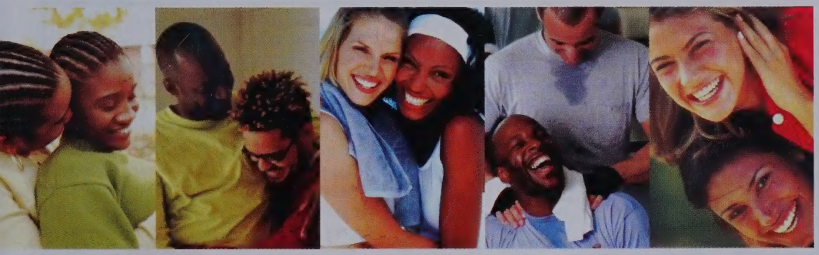

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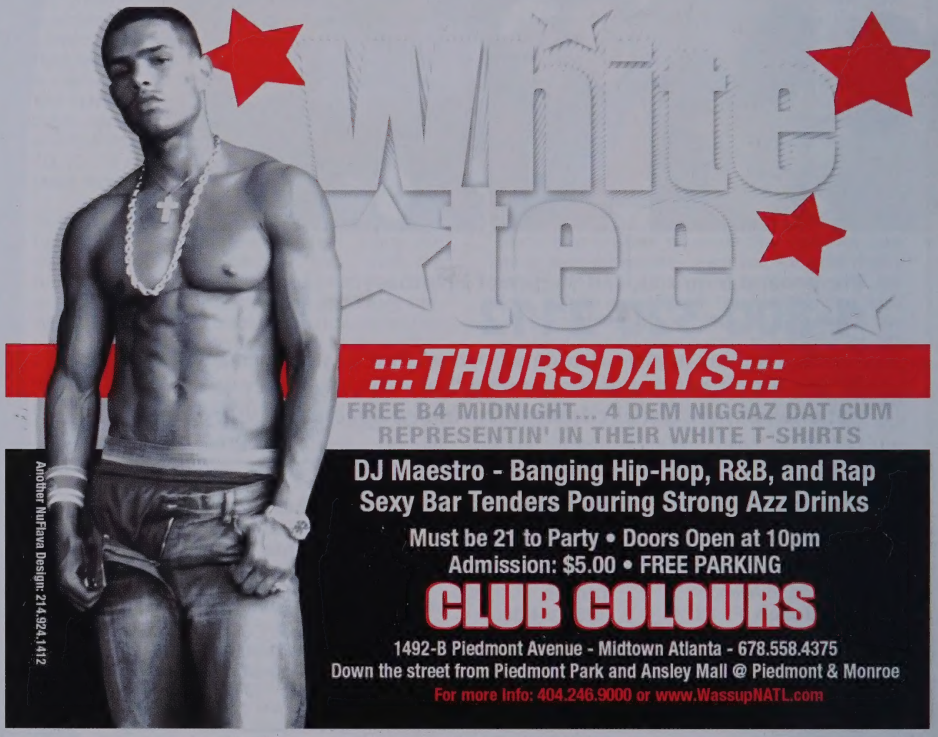
African-Americans & Coming Out

Coming out can be one of the most challenging events in your life, but also one of the most rewarding. Being attracted to someone of the same sex or understanding that your gender identity is different from your biological sex can be frightening. Some African Americans feel pressure to prioritize their different identities.

"Perhaps the most maddening question anyone can ask me is, 'Which do you put first: being black or being a woman, being black or being gay?' wrote Barbara Smith, author of "Blacks and Gays Healing the Great Divide" (Dangerous Liaisons: Blacks, Gays, and the Struggle for Equality. Brandt, Eric Editor, New Press, 1999). "The underlying assumption is that I should prioritize one of my identities because one of them is actually more important than the rest or that I must arbitrarily choose one of them over the others for the sake of acceptance in one particular community."

For many African Americans, coming out involves additional cultural factors that make the process more challenging but no less rewarding. Some of those challenges include associations with often homophobic churches, strong family foundations that emphasize heterosexuality, homophobia in the black community and racism in the broader gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. Thanks, however, to brave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GLBT African-American activists and their allies effecting change in the church and the community, there is more support and acceptance than ever before.

Religion

The church has traditionally informed, influenced and guided the day-to-day lives of many African Americans. "The black church is not just a place of spirituality and enlightenment, but a place of empowerment for African Americans," says David Neale, founder of Black Lavender Resources (www.blacklavender.com), a consulting firm specializing in diversity within the LGBT community.

Bishop Kwabena Rainey Cheeks, of Inner Light Ministries in Washington, D.C., agrees. "Spirituality is almost impossible to separate from black life," says Cheeks. "The church is a stabilizing force and a place to connect not just to God but to community, as well."

Yet some in those churches have been unwelcoming to people with a different sexual orientation or gender identity.

"The black church, the oldest institution and pillar of the black community, has historically dictated the community's stance on homosexuality – either you don't talk about it, or you condemn it," says Lynn d Johnson, online editor of Vibe Magazine and adjunct professor at Metropolitan College of New York. It is daunting to come out only to face the fear and misunderstanding of society in general, but many GLBT African Americans must face that same ignorance within the very institution that has for so many been the centerpiece of their community. Although no largely African-American denomination has issued a public statement outlining its position on homosexuality, the stances of individual churches and ministers are revealed on Sundays.

"The motto of the black church seems to be 'don't name it, don't claim it,'" says Mandy Carter, a founder of the progressive organization Southerners on New Ground. This informal church dictum has led many GLBT African Americans to find and create other places to exercise their spirituality.

Family

Coming out to family is often one of the most difficult experiences for a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender person. And for African Americans, it may be particularly challenging, says Sean Camargo, adviser for Diversity and Communities of Color on the staff of Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays, (www.pflag.org).

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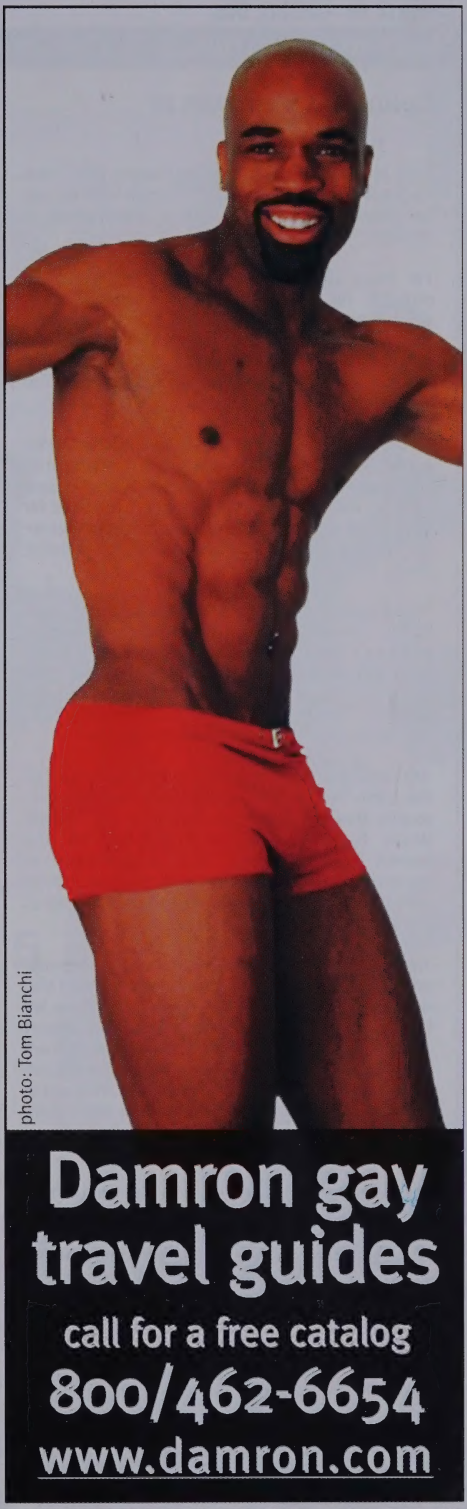

SOURCE: HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

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"The black family unit is a very strong one," says Carmago. "In a world where racism is still far too prevalent, the family is a haven, a stronghold of support."

For many there is no place in this fortress of strength for a "weakness," as homosexuality is often viewed. Parents sometimes think that having a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender child is detrimental and damaging to the black family and will negatively affect the whole African-American community.

As the late African-American lesbian author Audre Lorde described it: "Within Black communities where racism is a living reality, differences among us often seem dangerous and suspect. The need for unity is often misnamed as a need for homogeneity." (Sister Outsider: Essays and Poems. Crossing Press, 1984)

Despite the challenges that coming out in the black family presents, many GLBT African Americans choose to share their orientation or identity with their relatives. Being honest with your family is an important step in getting all parts of your life to fit together. One of the most important things is to give them time to process the information.

"My mom thought at first that I could no longer be the torch bearer and political leader in the community that she had expected me to be," recalls Donna Payne, constituency organizer for the Human Rights Campaign. "But as she came to accept and understand who I was, she was able to see that my role as torch bearer was still just as important."

Just as you may have needed information and support in coming out, know that your family may also need more information and support. "For Those We Love" is a program founded specifically to support African-American families of GLBT people. William Beale of Washington, D.C., the father of a gay son and founder of For Those We Love, was involved in PFLAG but felt that others would feel more comfortable in an African American-only support group.

"I'd see one other black person at the local PFLAG meeting, but they'd never return. My guess was that they didn't feel comfortable 'airing their dirty laundry' in that setting, says Beale. "Homosexuality is such a private issue that some feel it should only be shared or discussed with others like themselves."

Society

Many people see the GLBT community as a microcosm of society, in that it faces the same economic, racial, domestic and class issues as the rest of the American public. It is understandable, then, that similar challenges with social issues will exist. Some African Americans don't feel comfortable or welcome in the broader GLBT community or movement that many view as historically white-focused.

"Whether it's intentional or not, when GLBT organizations are predominately white, it discourages people of color. They look at the faces, don't see anyone like themselves and think, 'I have no place here,'" says Mandy Carter, African-American lesbian activist. Carter points to the growth of black pride celebrations as evidence that African Americans need to see other people like themselves. "Some people think that having black prides is somehow divisive, but I see it as another way to affirm the still too frequent invisibility of same-gender-loving blacks."

GLBT African Americans have been virtually invisible in history. Without Bayard Rustin there would have been no 1963 March on Washington for Civil Rights, but most history books rarely mention him and they almost never acknowledge that he was gay. The names of deceased singer Ma Rainey, pro baseball player Glenn Burke and the late Rep. Barbara Jordan, D-Texas, might be found in history books but not their sexual orientation. Telling their stories is a powerful way to educate others and inspire young African Americans who are coming to terms with their sexual orientation.

During the coming out process, it's important to know you are not the only one, and for many African Americans this is a challenge since images of GLBT people in the media or entertainment world rarely show GLBT people of color.

Being African American and coming out as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender — or same gender loving — may be an extremely challenging experience, but many find that it is unexpectedly rewarding. You not only free yourself from the confinement of the closet, but you also free others from their ignorance about issues related to sexual orientation or gender identity. The presence of open gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender African Americans in the church and within the family will be key to changing the homophobic atmosphere in those institutions. "If we are going to change things, we have to become visible," says HRC's Payne. You will find that coming out is not a one-time event, but rather a lifelong journey. Browse some resources to help take you, your friends and your family on that important path.

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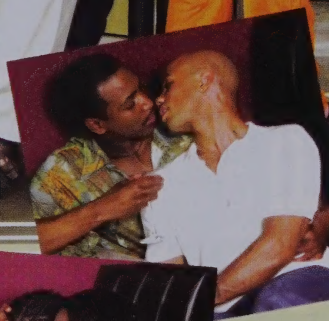

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Coming Out To Family

Spotlight On David Neale

When David Neale, founder of the Washington, D.C.-based public relations and diversity consulting firm Black Lavender Resources, was growing up, he was often the target of verbal abuse and harassment from classmates for being gay.

"I've never been very masculine, and kids would say derogatory things about my looks or my voice," said Neale, who is now 27 years old. It accelerated in sixth grade when the Eddie Murphy's "Raw" was released. "I don't know how my classmates got in to see this R-rated movie, but they were repeating every gay-bashing joke they had heard," Neale said. "It was hard to take, especially since Eddie Murphy was a successful and popular African American. But some of his success came at the expense of GLBT people."

Neale accepted his sexual orientation when he was 16, while he was attending a racially mixed all-boys Catholic high school in suburban Maryland.

"I was still enduring harassment and decided that I needed to speak with someone about it. I approached my guidance counselor and imagine my shock when his reaction to my news was to come out to me!" Neale remembers.

Neale greatly benefited from having his guidance counselor serve as a mentor and, with his help, paid his first visit to the local gay bookstore and participated in gay youth discussion groups. While Neale was out to himself and his counselor, he still was not out to anyone else - most notably, his family.

"I knew I would eventually tell my mom and dad but didn't have any kind of plan," Neale said. One day his mother was speaking to him about a co-worker she suspected was gay. "She was using derogatory language and I decided to call her on it. I guess my defense of her co-worker raised her suspicions," Neale said.

The next day his mother called him and asked if he was gay. Neale answered her truthfully.

"She told me I had broken her heart and then hung up," he said. This didn't surprise Neale, but he was surprised when three days later she called him again to say that his being gay would not interfere with her love for him.

"I learned later that she had for some reason kept an issue of Newsweek that discussed genetic origins of homosexuality. The article included a number for PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) which my mom called. Through PFLAG, she got in touch with the mother of a gay child in the D.C. area who talked her through it all," said Neale, whose mother continues to be his ally and advocate.

Once, for example, when the school principal refused to publish an article that Neale had written chronicling his experiences being a gay student, she helped him make and distribute 800 copies of the article to his classmates.

Coming out to his father was a different experience. "My dad has always chided me for what he sees as my lack of athleticism, even though I am a dancer," Neale said. "I remember one time I was stretching for a dance class and he came in and said, 'Why don't you go out and throw the ball around or something?' So I knew it would be more challenging. I didn't think he'd be capable of understanding especially as he had such a narrow view of what masculinity was and I had never met those expectations for him."

When he did come out to his father he was met with concern for what others would say.

"My dad wanted to know why I had to tell people. I explained to him that my self esteem was linked to telling that truth about myself, and that he shouldn't care what other people think," Neale recalled.

His relationship with his father remains distant, though Neale explains that it's a combination of factors that contribute to that situation. Overall Neale has found acceptance and love from his family.

"My mother has been one of my biggest supporters from the moment I came out to her," he says with pride. And that has extended to others in his family.

"A few years ago, my grandmother overheard some people in church saying derogatory things about gays," said Neale. "Though she was in her late 80s, she had always been feisty, so she went over to give them a piece of her mind. 'Don't you be saying things like that about gays. My grandson is gay and I love him.' I am truly blessed to have my family."

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By CRAIG WASHINGTON

A Revolutionary Act

This is a commemoration, an appreciation at the cusp of my 20th year of life with HIV. There is a proverbial mixed blessing entailed in feeling like I do and having AIDS. I love being as healthy as I am. I have not yet lost the thrill of living that many of us lose long before we die. I feel fully immersed in the stream, the flow of life. Particularly I love the physicality, the carnal aspect of living. I love being in my body. I am learning to worship it without shame or apology. It is not just a mere vessel for me. While it is not my essence, it is certainly an essential part of me. I have got to love it. Because everyday the HIV that lives in me, threatens to slowly, imperceptibly, nest and divide, to weaken and kill this body of mine. I will not let that happen. And if viruses possess some form of intelligence as some admiring virologists suggest, then I suspect that this virus, my virus understands that. We have reached if not an agreement, then at least an impasse. I cannot get rid of it and it can't get rid of me. We have a very dysfunctional mutual respect for each other.

But because I have been spared many of the severe manifestations of this disease I still have to remind myself to remain vigilant. To get my bloodwork done, to call and find out what my viral load and t-cell counts are, to continue to set up appointments with my case manager. My long-term wellness has made such precautions seem less urgent. Yet I know better. I know that the insurgent that occupies my territories is clever, its patience inexhaustible, its stealth, its greatest weapon. So I must not fall asleep on my own watch. I do things to ensure my survival, informed by both intelligence and, lately far more frequently, instinct.

For instance, I love my body quite tenaciously these days. Remember Baby Suggs soul stirring sermon on the mount from Toni Morrison's "Beloved"; how she admonished black people to never ignore our flesh. "Love it," she commanded. "Yonder," she warned, "they do not love your flesh." Well, I am feeling her these days. I indulge my body in certain disciplines and certain pleasures. To eat...dessert, to sleep late, to run, to exercise, to stretch, to feel the weight that I push against or pull upon, to inhale, to drink, to lick, to suck, to sweat, to smell, to exhale, to touch, to feel, this is to Live. This is life in the body. Each body is as divine as unique as the color Purple and I think it piss God off when we can dwell in our body all the live long day and not "see" it. So I find myself sometimes smelling myself between my own legs. I taste the salt of my own tears. I touch the viscous tissue of my own pungent cum. I listen to the sound, hug the abrupt quake of my own laughter. This is what I will recall when those angels ask me about the beauty of it all. What was it like down here below.

If my focus is highly erotic, it is because the erotic, like nothing else, reminds me of the animal that I am. I am constantly discovering the differences between the erotic and the sexual. During a recent men's retreat, I met a kind and honest brother who asked to spend the night with me without having sex. I agreed but, as there was a mutual attraction, I was afraid that I would not be able to resist the temptation of his body laid up next to mine. How fortunate then that I managed to refrain from any sexual touch and still hold and be held by him in a manner that left me more naked than many of my sexual encounters. I felt safe and loved in the snug and warm wall of his body. I felt no lack or regret and even though I was excited by his touch I felt no need to do anything other than be touched. I never felt more alive or fully open.

I once believed that the erotic and the sexual were one and the same, or that anything considered erotic must serve as the prelude, the invitation to the inevitable sexual act. Without this all-important consummation, then the erot-

Mr. Washington was lovingly raised by Anna and Leon Washington in Queens, New York and has lived in Atlanta for 11 years. His writings have been published in Clikque, Venus, Arise, Washington Blade, Southern Voice, Atlanta Voice, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, He currently serves as the Volunteer and Training Coordinator for Positive Impact, which provides mental health services for people affected by HIV. He can be reached at cwash360@cs.com.

ic is in and of itself, a worthless tease, a ruse not worth getting hot and bothered about. Erotic is the appetizer that whets our appetite for the main course, sex. And sex of course means intercourse; anything else is foreplay; and sex must culminate in ejaculation. Somebody has to come or the deed has been left undone. My boyfriend and I enjoyed hours of delicious sex sometimes without penetration or climax, yet when I shared this with friends, several of them claimed that this was not real sex. Our culture, true to its Judeo Christian roots, not only enforces a thick, dark line between sexuality and spirituality. It also reduces the erotic to serve the singular agenda of intercourse.

One of the reasons why homosexuals are so feared and reviled, is because our sexualities are often not legitimized by procreation, marriage, or monogamy. The values that define sexual pleasure outside of such constructs as base and immoral are the same values that, in these United States, frame the bodies of women; black and brown people; and gays as terrains of unbridled desire and decadence. These bodies must be covered because they are profane; sanitized because they are hopelessly dirty; punished or imprisoned because they are criminal; lynched, raped, mutilated or otherwise destroyed because they are evil and threaten to subvert the dominance of white men or sully the purity of white women. When the voluptuous Janet Jackson flashed her breast before millions, unsanctioned by white media moguls, it was a transgression for which she was swiftly punished. When the virile, dark-skinned 18 year old Marcus Dixon had sex with a 16 year old white girl in Rome, Georgia, it was a transgression for which he was imprisoned with all due haste. When I sucked another mans dick last night, then rode it way into the midnight hour, it was a transgression for which I could be consigned to eternal damnation or dispatched from this life like the 15 year old Sakia Gunn.

Knowing that I am an outlaw by dint of my skin, my sexuality and my serostatus, it is crucial that I celebrate my day-to-day survival in a land that rejects me as if I were an infection it has discovered and hopes to wipe out. But I know that I belong here, triple offender though I may be, that despite the odds, I have managed to survive here. It is my birthright "bought and paid for" by my African ancestors and their American progeny; and my homosexual forebears. Those whom endured and those who perished so that it would be considerably more difficult, though not impossible, for me to be killed or jailed for eyeballing a white woman or balling a man of any color. I am compelled to celebrate.

As black men who love men, we tend to carry heavy loads of shame often masked by addic-

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By CRAIG WASHINGTON

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tions and distorted self images. We are usually served by well-intentioned organizations which don't have a clue about how we see ourselves and where our power and resiliency lies, that we are not merely walking pathologies that are served by catchy messages with hop hop soundtracks or mud cloth graphics. How do we reach the sensual salvation we seek when we are forced to love on the minefield that the brilliant Charles Stephens characterized in the seminal anthology "Think Again"? It is, I think, an unanswerable question and yet we must ask it. One of the most powerful ways for me to exalt the improbable triumph of my drawing breath is to fully embrace my own body. To kiss and trace every warrior mark whether or not it was earned or deserved. As a teenager, I often felt embarrassed by my desires and what or who, either innocently or deliberately, aroused them. I did not wait to relinquish that shame before I started having sex with men. But no paramour however skilled or compassionate could hope to love away the stains engrained beneath my skin. This is my work and I am so commissioned for life.

There was a point, shortly after becoming infected, when sex was no longer sexy to me. After all it was the very thing that got me into this mess. I was afraid to pee much less to have sex. I was so preoccupied with the fear of infecting someone, or someone finding out, or not getting hard, that the first time afterward I could not perform. Well I met this one brother who told me that he was positive as well. And we did it. And it was good. It was so good that the morning after, I fixed him an exceptional breakfast including apricot jam and toast as Nina Simone suggested. And after he left, I took the day off so I could take time to reflect on the experience. I didn't want to let go just yet of what had just happened and act as if nothing had changed. I wanted to savor it. I was not in love. I do not even remember his name. But I remember that he gave me something precious. He reminded me of my right to life, to a corporeal, sexual life. My flesh. I have got to love it. Do not forget to love your flesh. Just love it.

"Black Men Loving Black Men Is The Revolutionary Act"
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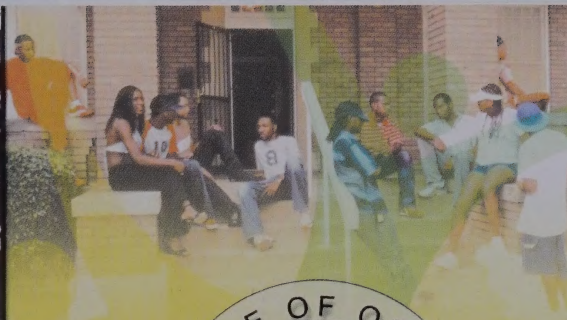

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ASK Bianca

Bianca is interested in helping you solve some of the greater mysteries of life. Write her at Clikque Magazine,1001 North Federal HWY, Suite 365, Hallandale, FL 33009
Or email her C/O Clikque1@aol.com

HELLO DAHLINGS,
It is me, your favorite girl, Bianca Constantine Alexis Buchanan. The illegitimate love child of Rupaul Charles and Pat Buchanan. With parents like those you can imagine my extra- ordinary beauty and twisted cum fuck me persona. I was born fucked up, but after years of therapy and numerous cosmetic surgeries including four rhinoplastis, I continue to live royally. Over the last couple of months I have been working on my beauty and with the surgeries complete I am more dramatically changed than The Swan and even more narcissistic than you will ever imagine. I am sitting perched in lovely ... I can't say where I live because of a stalker named Josephina, who used to follow me around town when I lived in Houston. But I am living well. My collection of bling bling is outrageous and I am being dicked by a big dick Haitian man, whom we will refer to as Big L. Do I need to explain why his name is Big L? I don't think so.

Of course my new tits and gorgeousness has him eating out of the palm of my hands. He told me last night that I was his main girl. Do you know how happy that has made me? Well, I have waited a long time to be his main girl. I used to be his Tuesday-Thursday girl, much the same way I had English 18.11 while in college. Now I can see him four days of the week so this is one happy diva. Enough of me, since this column is really about you my adoring fans. Let me address your issues of the month. Until next month, be bold, stay bitchy, and continue to envy me, because I will forever remain beautiful.
Bianca.

DEAR BIANCA
I am a very unhappy person, although no one would know this because I always look happy. The problem is that I live with a man that I do not want to be with, and the man that I do want does not want me the way I want him. How do I move on and find happiness.
Lonely & Unhappy

DEAR LONELY & UNHAPPY,
It appears you have a serious dilemma, but have no fear; Bianca is here to give you the truth. Girl, I am not one for mincing my words so here is the harsh reality. You only have one life to live. This is not the dress rehearsal. You will need to make up your mind once and for all about the man you are living with. Kick him to the curb and become your own happy woman.
It may be difficult but you need to do it. Unless you believe in re-incarnation or you plan on being young forever, you need to move on.
As far as the other man is concerned, I do not know what to say. We all have this thing, with wanting the things we cannot have. We become almost obsessive to the point where we start hurting ourselves. Practice some self love and maybe you will leave the man you live with and eventually realize that the man you are obsessing about, is better for you at the level of friendship you now have. Is this other man Gay? Until you start living happily, I will remain beautiful.
Love Bianca

DEAR BIANCA,
I work for this fierce entertainment group. We put on very successful events and I get paid to do it. However I feel under compensated for my time and efforts. For example this past weekend we put on

the biggest gay festival in South Florida and I had no time to get me some dick despite some 10,000 gorgeous men around me all weekend. How can I assure myself of some dick next time?
Anita Lay

DEAR ANITA,
Stop whining. You are a fag and should have just dropped to your knees in front of all those cocks you wanted to suck. All work and no play makes Jill a horny cunt. Next year after you have done all you think you can do, just call your boss and keep flushing the toilet into the phone. Like all mortal men he will assume you are having the runs and you will not have to explain why you can't go to work. Then use the time wisely to get dicked.

Yours truly,
The ever-satisfied Bianca

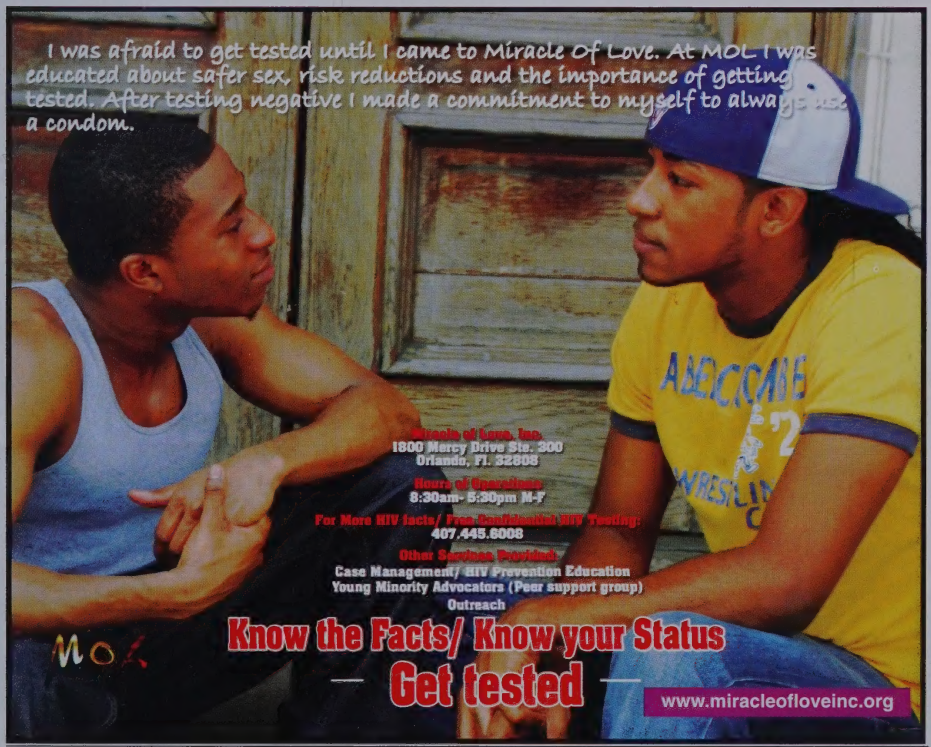
DEAR BIANCA,
I went to Sizzle in Miami last weekend and I had the time of my life. So many gorgeous men and so many hot spots to party. I am wondering if you have the name and address or phone number of the guy who won the Clikque Magazine pool party body contest?. He looked like a Greek god and I must have him.
Needy in New York

YOU NEEDY BITCH,
Who the hell do you think I am? Do I look like the type of person who would personally know the winner of a hot - body contest? I have better things to do. And in the future don't write to me asking me David's name nor his address on 89th street, because I don't know either of them.

Besides, you live in New York and my sources tell me he lives in South Florida. Get a grip, get a life and don't ever write to me again. Badass, Beautiful Bianca. P.S. Why would a man with the body of a Greek god want you?

Well that's it for this month. I could not respond to all your letters, but keep them coming, as the more meaningful ones will get published here on this same bad page, in this same bad magazine each month.

Until next time, I remain the ever devastating and beautiful Bianca.


I was afraid to get tested until I came to Miracle Of Love. At MOL I was educated about safer sex, risk reductions and the importance of getting tested. After testing negative I made a commitment to myself to always use a condom.
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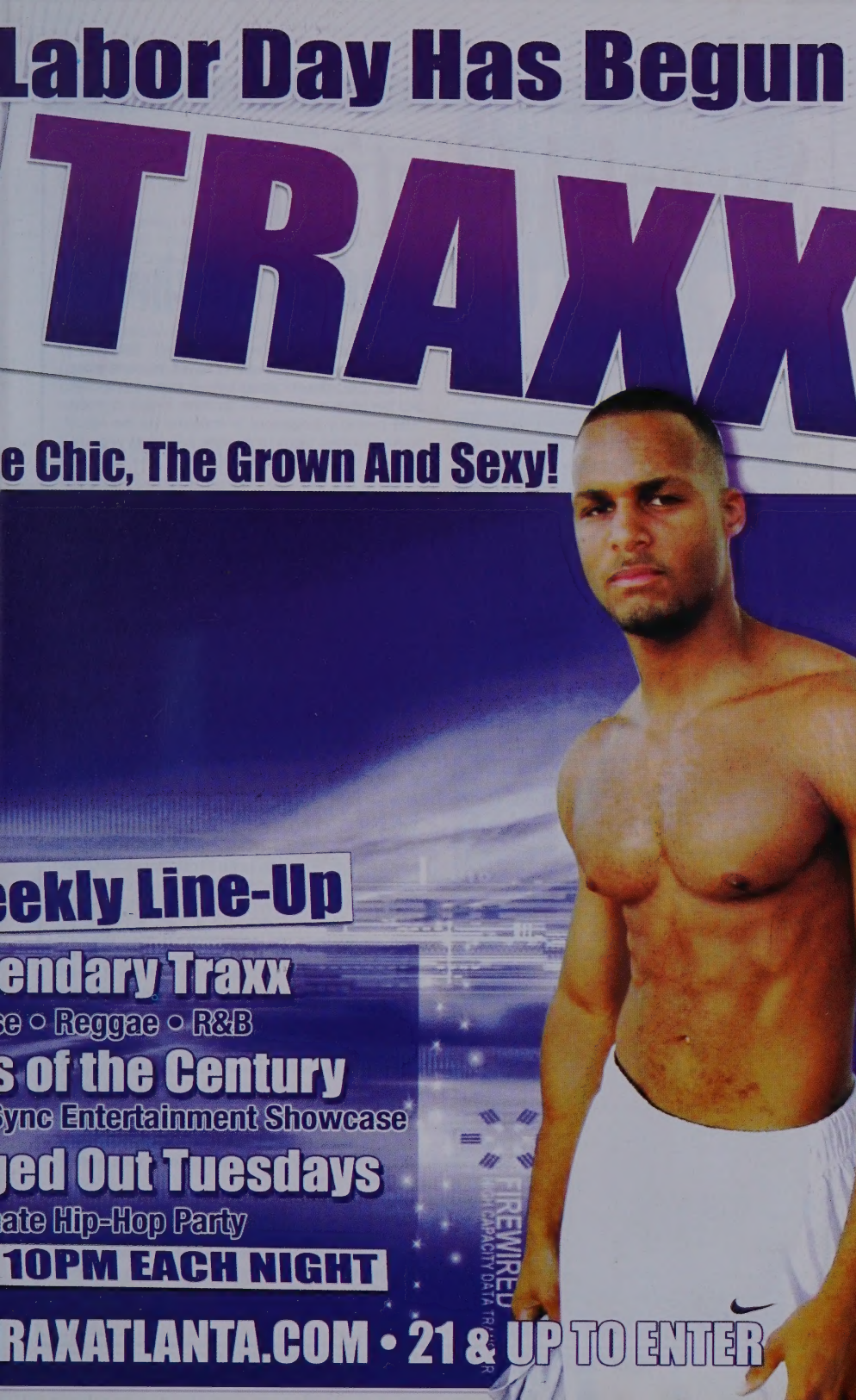
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BY SHAUN BOURGET, M.A., M.F.T.

Sexual Addiction

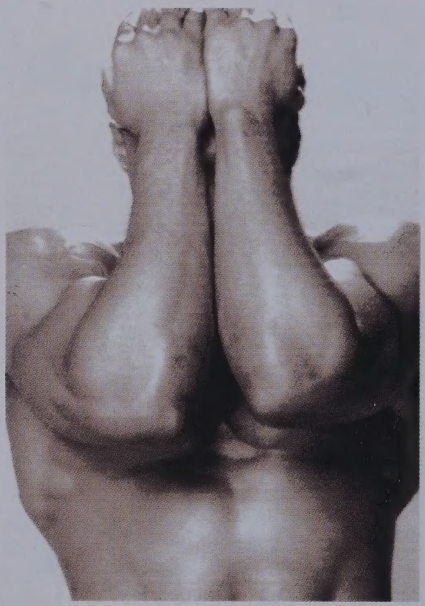
Are You On A Road To Nowhere?

Men's Health magazine reported in June that men, on average, have 12.4 sex partners (in a lifetime), and have sex 1.5 times per week. These numbers may seem low to many gay men, who generally exercise greater sexual freedom than their heterosexual counterparts. But for a person who is sexually compulsive these numbers may seem shockingly low.

Which begs the following questions: How much sex is too much? What is the difference between frequent sexual encounters and Sexual Addiction?

What is Sexual Addiction?

Sexual Addiction (also called Sexual Compulsivity or Sexual Acting Out) is an impulsively driven behavior that clouds your judgement and can lead to negative consequences in your life. Sexual Addiction is, "a chosen maladaptive coping strategy that provides momentary gratification for the emptiness a person feels inside," according to Derrell Tidwell, a licensed clinical social worker based in Los Angeles, CA. As this behavior continues, it gains momentum and becomes a whole new problem in-and-of-itself. "The person's judgement is impaired by the sexual impulses which leads to reckless behaviors with disastrous results," says Tidwell.



In distinguishing between frequent sexual encounters and Sexual Addiction, you must look at your level of self-control and the resulting consequences of the behavior itself. Frequent sexual encounters may be accompanied by feelings of guilt and minor consequences (e.g., tired and unproductive at work the day after a sexual encounter). Compulsive sexual behavior not only carries feelings of guilt, shame, sadness and loneliness, but it also usually results in devastatingly negative mental, emotional, physical or social consequences. Additionally, sexual compulsive behavior by definition involves an irresistible impulse to perform the sexual acts regardless of the consequences. This lack of control over the problem-causing behavior is the hallmark of any addiction or compulsion.

Anecdote

When Ken arrived for treatment he had feelings of guilt and shame related to his recent sexual encounters. Ken promised himself that these meaningless encounters would cease, but he felt increasingly powerless to stop them. "It's a rush, a feeling of pure excitement, like adrenaline pumping through every vein in my body," he explained.

Like many others, Ken suffers from Sexual Addiction, a maladaptive behavior used to compensate for his issues with closeness and intimacy in his relationships. "It's just so much easier to have anonymous sex with someone I don't know. There is this buildup of excitement and a sexual rush, hoping the other guy will notice me...want me. After we connect, I just lose myself in the sex. It's really not about knowing the guy. I rarely even want to know his name. When it's over, I can simply walk away," said Ken.

During his childhood, Ken's father left his home and his mother in order to make ends meet. Growing up, he received little affection or guidance and he had very little structure in his life. He experienced several significant losses and he learned that closeness with others inevitably results in loss and pain.

As an adult, Ken used sex to avoid closeness and intimacy with others (his greatest fear). At the same time, he learned to satisfy his thirst for attention with sex. But his behaviors only created more problems and complications in his life.

Problems Caused By Sexual Addiction
Whether you refer to it as Sexual Compulsivity, Sexual Addiction or Sexual Acting Out, the issue is not only the sexual behavior itself but also the problems that the addiction causes.

Sexual Addiction can cause problems in all aspects of your life -- physical, legal, financial and vocational. The addiction can also impact negatively on your relationships with friends, family and partners.

Possible Causes of Sexual Addiction

The powerful sexual desires, impulses and behaviors associated with Sexual Addiction are manifestations of deeply rooted mental and emotional issues. The sex is used to compensate for, distract against, cope with or fend off inner turmoil and conflict. Unresolved conflicts, lack of trust in others, fear of closeness, and irrational negative self-perceptions originate earlier in the developmental years of childhood.

"People suffering from Sexual Compulsivity experience difficulty attaching to others because of the vulnerability required of true intimacy. Since they do not trust others, they have a real problem being simultaneously close with and vulnerable to significant others," according to Tidwell. Thus, it is much safer to "connect" with someone anonymously on a sexual level than to become sexually intimate with someone on a much deeper level.

Some of these internal issues include:

- Lack of trust in significant others
- Fear of closeness and/or intimacy
- Negative self-perception
- Unending need for attention
- Low self-esteem, self-worth and self-respect
- Feeling unloved, unattractive, and unwanted
- Self-destructive tendencies
- Feelings of depression, sadness, loneliness
- Views of sex as the only "viable" means of connecting with others

Can Counseling or Therapy Help Me?

If you think you have a Sexual Addiction problem, therapy or counseling may help.

The first step of treatment is usually to recognize that your behavior is an unhealthy way of dealing with emotional issues. A professional counselor may help you to become more aware of both your behavior and the unresolved internal issues that may be causing your compulsive behavior. Your counselor may also help you make healthier behavior choices.

A sexual addict may display one or more of the following problems:

- Recurrent, intense sexually arousing urges, impulses or behavior that causes psychological stress.
- Continued display of sexual behavior despite a desire to reduce or terminate such behavior.
- Arrests for illegal sexual behavior including prostitution, indecent exposure, voyeurism, selling or buying child pornography, or sexual acts with a minor.
- Financial problems due to excess money spent on sexually oriented pursuits (e.g., pornography, online sex, phone sex, prostitution, etc.).
- A significant decrease in important social, recreational or occupational activities because they interfere with sexual activities.
- A propensity to engage in additional high risk behaviors including unprotected sex and drug and alcohol abuse.
- Contracting frequent and/or multiple sexually transmitted diseases (i.e., HIV, syphilis, chlamydia, gonorrhea, etc.).
- Continuation of sexual behavior despite persistent physical, legal, financial, vocational, social or relationship problems directly caused by the sexual behaviors.

SIZZLE 2004

The Newest & Hottest Circuit Event

I arrived Miami International Airport on American Airlines Flight 1236 from New York, with Prada purse on hip and my Louis Pieces hauled by a baggage service technician, to the waiting limousine, I was carted off to the **Sheraton Biscayne Bay Hotel** where I would spend the next five days gagging.

Upon arrival at the hotel, I was met by the drop dead gorgeous **Miss Alexis** who is real fish on vacation from college. She gave me my welcome Package, which included a Sizzle tank top, shopping guides to Miami, Museums and eateries, as well as the events guide and my own personal black book for the datalations. I asked for an additional black book since I came to get numbers, pick up trade and make business contacts. Lies we tell. In addition, there were packets of condoms from one of those organizations. I think it was Urban Soul Squad of Miami.

First stop on the club scene was **The Soho Lounge**. A multilevel facility, featuring various rooms for us to indulge in different pleasures, was made available to all who had come to Sizzle early. The music was hot. **DJ Q** of **Atlanta** played his ass off and rocked my nerves, as did **DJ Jody** from **Miami**. The go-go boys in their Egyptian costumes were hot. Dick prints galore and the bodies were right. What a nice assortment of boys? From the slender Latino, to the big muscular Black man were on hand for our entertainment. Between the boys and the bar, I can't remember which got more of my money. The staff that greeted me were friendly and not to mention good looking. At the end of the night I knew I would have to

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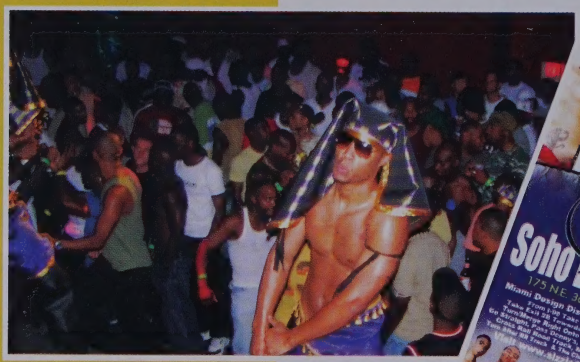
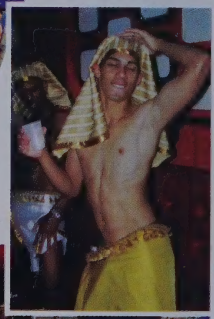


This Is How Sizzle Got The Party Started... Not Bad. Not Bad At All. Thursday @ SoHo Lounge!



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call my charge card folks to let them know I would be on a spending frenzy, this weekend.

One of my girlfriends got thrown out of the club, because she refused to pay the tip that was attached to her drink price. Poor girl did not realize that they do that, in sophisticated clubs when you pay by credit card. Despite that, I had a blast.

Before I forget. The **Sizzle Banner** displayed outside the Soho Lounge that night was incredibly beautiful and was available for viewing at every event that was to follow. Even after seeing it several times I could not help but continue to gaze at its beauty.

I got back to the hotel at 6:00 am, played around with a hot number from Kentucky who I will refer to as boy number one then passed out. It was room service that woke my ass up at noon.

Friday midday: I clean up, put my face on and did a couple pushups, to make sure that this bod I had spent so much time on the last six months would be good to go. I put on my Sizzle Tank top which was good for a day time outing and headed to the gym, then the mall, then some more shops and off to the airport to pick up my girlfriends whose jobs would not give them Thursday off. Too bad they should have gone to college.

SoHo Lounge

We had dinner, I told them about last night's trade, which was good, but one girl had the nerve to ask me if I was going to see him again. With this many men the answer was a helified, Hell no. No disrespect, but I am not sure I would ever see this many gorgeous men in one place again.

After a well-deserved rest we got dressed in the best fashions we had brought and headed for some club named **Pure Nightlife**. Our Judys who lives in South Florida did not know what to expect, as this venue does not normally host gay black men. To our surprise, **it was off the muthafucking chain**. The space was awesome. The best I have seen for a gay circuit party and trust me, this whore has seen many a nightclubs. **DJ Gavin** spun my ass into a frenzy and the bartenders rocked my world. I twirled and twirled and ... you get the picture. The bevy of go-go gods was to die for in those damn angel wings, serving devil. I saw a bunch of girls from my past, but it was the new boys who all seemed to be sporting boners as they brushed up against me in passing that got my attention. The crotch-to-crotch action was severe. The sea of beauty that surrounded me overwhelmed me. So I just decided to kiss as many handsome men as I could and hope the most

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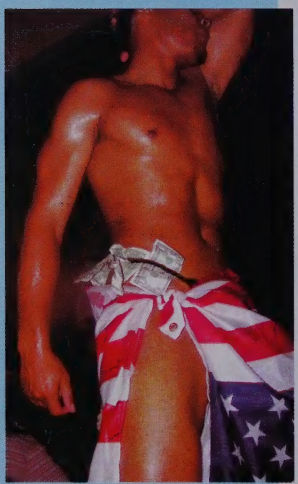
masculine one would take me back to my hotel. Ok, I am promiscuous, I can't help it.

I am not sure what time the club ended, last time I checked it was 6.15 am and my ass was still on the dance floor. The rest of the night is one big blur.

I remember being woken up by the sound of a drag queen on a microphone as my room was poolside. I looked out and to my amazement there had to be about **1000 screaming faggots parading on the pool deck**. Looking lovely and sickening. I was actually feeling quite sick when I looked up and realized that a man I will call boy number two was still in my bed and he was not as manly as I remembered him to be either. Oh well.

I shoved him through the door and took a long bath, put on something from my Gucci collection and headed for the pool. My gosh was this pool party given by the **Legendary Clikque Magazine** awesome? What can I say about this party? It was so fetch!!



You can read about it on the pool party review page in this very same magazine. Oh, the boy from New Jersey in the camouflage swim trunks gets my vote. He was right.

After the pool party I went to dinner then had just enough time to head on over to **Club Boi**. It was hot and sticky over there but the boys were cute. My bartender in the Hawaiian sarong, who showed me his piece since he was wearing no draws, got my vote for that night. Did you all see him on the small bar upstairs? The same bar where X-rated showed off his huge tool much to everyone's delight? I left ClubBoi at 7.30 am. And for real, **Miami was sizzling**.

I slept most of Sunday and heard that I had not missed much, as the Beach party was cancelled by the city of Miami, because they claimed it was too crowed on the beaches, that day and was a risk to public safety.

After finally getting up at 6:00 pm, I went to Houston's with some old girls for dinner, and then it was time to get dressed for the **Banjee Magazine Sex On The Beach party**. This event was held at

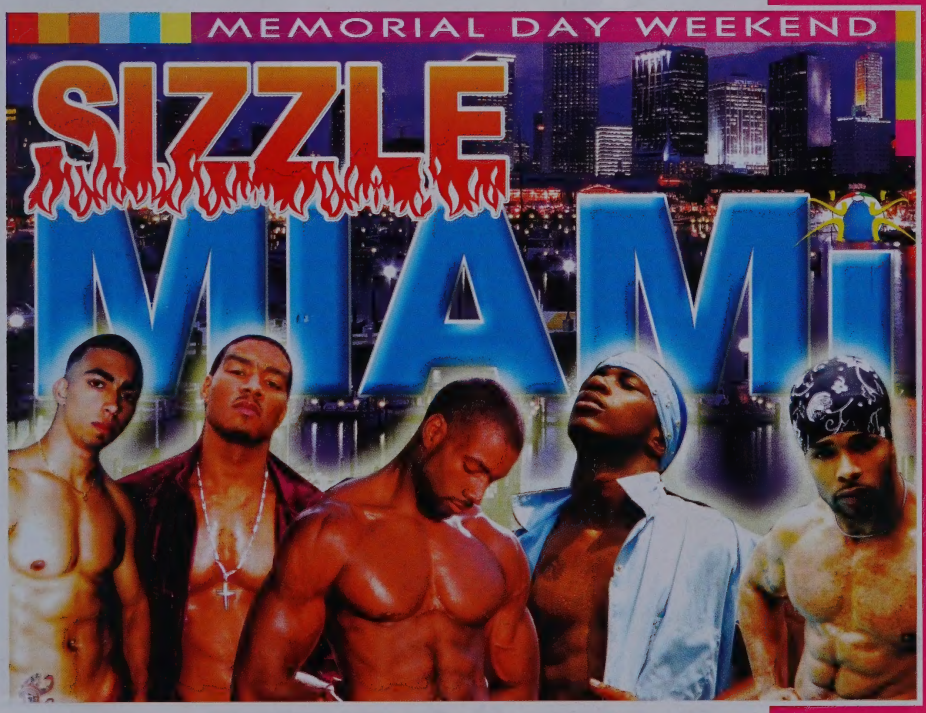
the **Blue Café** in **Sunny Isles**. It was packed, it was hot, it was amazing but as the **MC Busta** from Atlanta reminded me every five minutes, what happens at Sex On The Beach stays at Sex On The Beach. I guess if you weren't there you shoulda been. Enough said.

If you think four days of partying was enough you were truly mistaken. On Monday daytime, everyone flocked to Haulover beach to get naked or watch naked men. This South Florida nude beach is simply divine. I got my life there too and a bunch of numbers. It sure pays to work out. With the beach over and my trifling ass having planned on staying to Tuesday and VIP card permitting, I went to the last hurrah that Monday night, at **Club I/O**. I went because I was still in Miami and the event was already paid for. much to my surprise, most people had the same plans. This night proved to be one of the best, as the space was major, so were the drinks and the go-go boys, plus I spotted a few celebrities in the mix. The fact that they were wearing baseball caps did not disguise them enough from me. How many basketball players and track athletes did you spot at Club I/O? It was not one or two, it was quite a few. I hope you got to feel up on a few like I did. Just goes to show that celebrities need dick too. I left I/O at 5.00 am that Tuesday morning with a to do list that read, book Sizzle 2005 vacation now on lines 1-10.

Miami sizzled, I partied, and I lost my mind, slept with one queen and a couple of hunks. I would not have changed a thing about the Sizzle weekend. Banjeeboi Inc and Clikque Magazine get a letter grade of A for a superb event. So for you girls who were there, see you next year and those who missed it, what can I say? You shoulda been!

Begin Making Plans For **Sizzle 2005**

Visit The Site @ Sizzle2005.com



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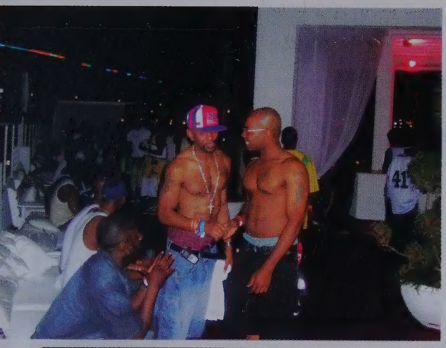
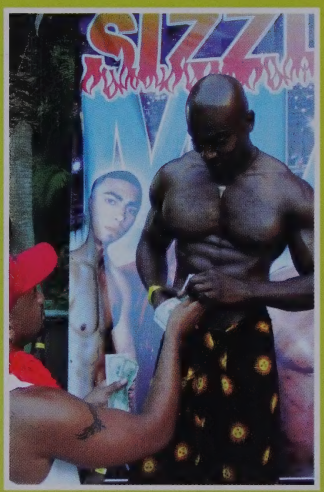
2000 STRONG
Jammin To Miami's Best DJ Gavin T



Voted Best Night of the Sizzle Weekend, Pure Nightlife proved to be the ultimate in nightclub spaces. Offering an upper deck, cruisy walkways and relaxation verandahs, Pure was the elite of our many fine party spaces. Try never to miss a Banjee Boi Inc. party, given at Pure.

Now You Can See Why Saturday May 29th Was The Hottest Day On Record For The Year 2004 In Miami.

A Miami native by the name of David proved that south Florida, despite its smaller black gay population was still a contender, in the race for sexiest men in North America. Before a capacity packed audience of 1000 gorgeous men from around the globe, **David**



bested a field of 15 contestants to walk away with the coveted prize of $500 in cash and a chance to appear on this months cover of **Clikque Magazine.**

The competition, which was hosted by the very entertaining and sexy **Kennedy Davenport** of **Dallas, Texas**, now residing in Miami, was one of the hottest I have ever witnessed. All the contenders looked lovely, but it was David's revelation that took him over the edge to capture the grand prize.

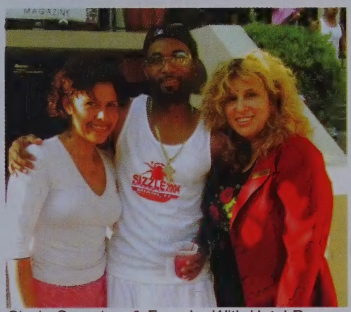
Wearing a yellow and black lounge wrap pant, David strutted his stuff to an engaged and captive audience and got thunderous applause. However, when **Maceo** of Detroit and **Saint** of Atlanta, started to steal the spotlight from him, there went the wrap. The hooting and hollering was unimaginable and with that Clikque Magazine found it's newest cover boy.

David is a Massage therapist and Personal trainer from Miami, whose business is called the **Body Architect**. With muscles rippling and bulging everywhere, the very gracious David said he enjoyed the competition. When asked what part of the weekend he enjoyed most, we were shocked to find out that winning the contest actually ranked lower than the amazing time he had at Pure Night club the night before.

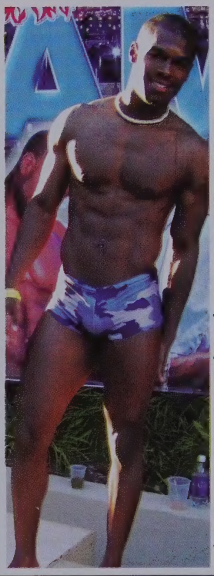
Interested readers of this magazine should be pleased to know that David is going on a summer tour which will begin in New Orleans, go as far north as New York and end in Atlanta, before he heads back home. When asked how he can be reached, David suggested that you come to South Florida and make an appointment for a massage or some personal training and you can get to spend time with him. His information is available from Clikque Magazine for those needing his services.

Clikque salutes this months cover boy, and thanks him for helping make this year's pool party and hot body contest such an entertaining and competitive one.

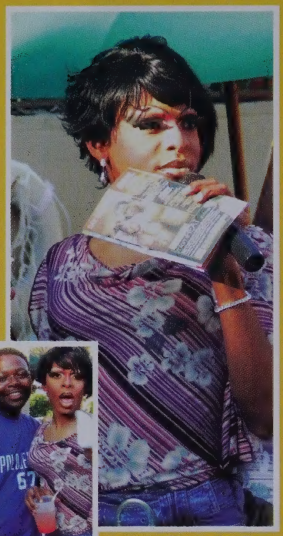
The Sizzle Gang: Chris (seated), Lewis, Rod, Charles, Louis & Dwight Enjoying Themselves @ The Hottest Pool Party To Hit Miami



Sizzle Organizer & Founder With Hotel Reps Mariam & Angela @ Clikque Pool Party



Can Someone Please Tell This New Jersey Hotty To Call The Staff At Clikque



A Star Is Born

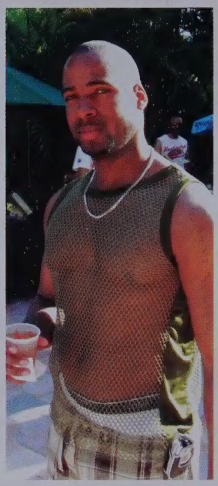
Atlanta Has Sophia
Chicago Has Otis Mack
New York Has Harmonica
Houston's Got Cookie and Miami's Got
KENNEDY DAVENPORT

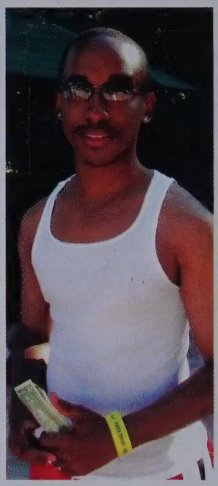
Allow us to introduce you to the latest, hottest, drag phenomenon to hit the scene. Relatively new queen on the block, but she has big dreams and a lot of talent. She is a big fan of Atlanta's Sophia Mc Intosh, but Sophia had better watch out because here comes Kennedy Davenport.

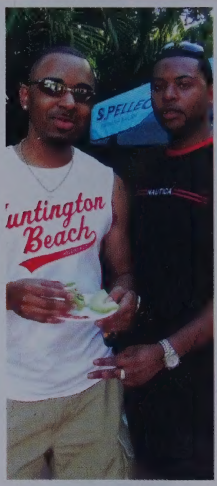
Child of Kelixis, Kennedy is a sweetheart. She is personable, charming and witty and she got her good looks from her mother who is undeniably pretty. Kennedy took on the role of hostess for the Legendary Clikque Magazine pool party after the official hostess Samantha Devine was forced to withdraw.

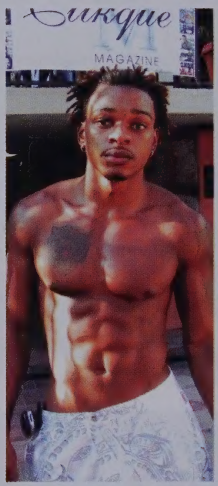
Thank goodness for that, Miss Kennedy Davenport turned out the party. The bitch can slug a cocktail, and shake her ass like a goddess, but more importantly she has a mouth on her. So much so, that Clikque Magazine has decided to make her the official host of Clikque events to come.

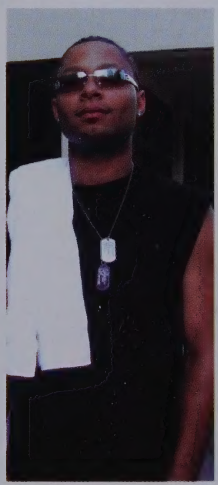
Kennedy had us in stitches with her off the wall humor and ability to improvise. So what if she inhales liquor like a trucker and so what if she won the strip contest at Boardwalk one Wednesday? We still think she is a classy lady who is going places and we at Clikque both welcome and salute her. You can catch Kennedy all over the globe, as she is a pageant queen but just remember that in the future when Clikque is having an event Kennedy Davenport will be right there. **Yu go girl**

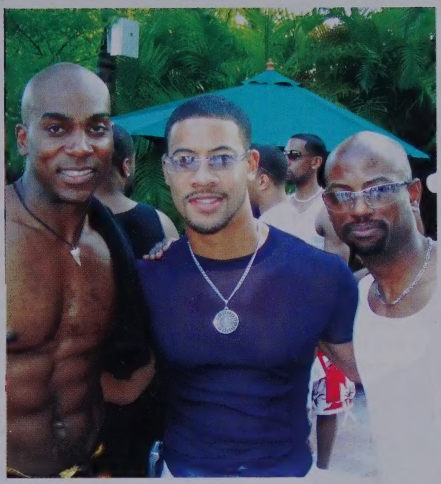


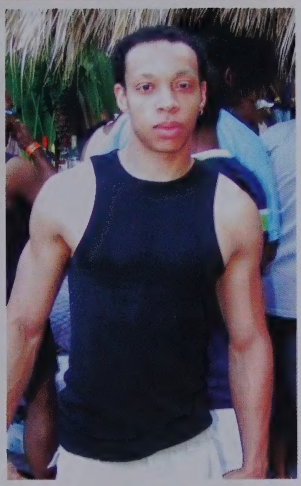




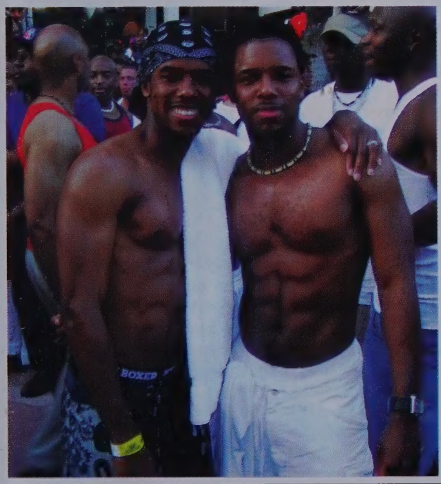


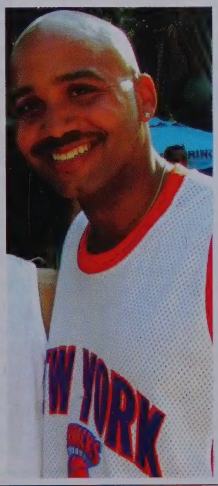


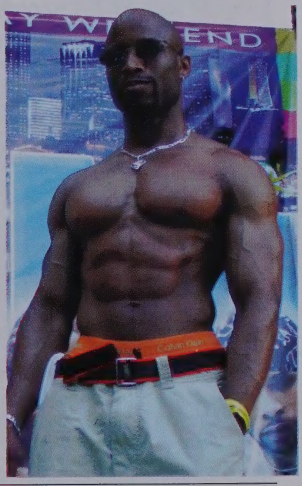




SIZZLE 2004




W YORK



The guard is ALWAYS on watch!

I was recently out and about engrossed in my everyday errands when someone who wanted to talk about one of my articles approached me. We stood there for 10 minutes discussing my point of view and then he offered me his. At the end of this conversation, he pointed out to me that I wasn't at all like I appeared to be in my column. He said that I seemed a lot more reserved whereas in my column I was more open and free with my thoughts. At the time the comment didn't really register with me and I glossed over it and moved on completing my errands. Later when the comment reappeared in my thoughts, I considered the meaning behind it.

The truth is (and I think that I have shared this before) that the public me, the person that hangs out with my friends at parties and on the rare occasion in clubs or wherever, is very guarded. There are a few reasons that I guard myself so carefully. The easiest one that I can share is that I slightly suffer from social phobia (meaning that I fear social situations). The reason that I say "slightly" is because I am not afraid to talk to people but I cannot just approach someone and strike up a conversation on a whim. I get very nervous, I don't have a clue what to say and just thinking about it while typing this puts butterflies in my stomach. On the flip side, if someone were to approach me, I still wouldn't know what to say but I would try my hardest to be engaging and participate in the conversation. For example, I was waiting for the elevator one day going to my gym when the doors opened and there is this very cute guy that I have admired from a distance for years (probably as long as I have been a member at this gym). I said hello, kept my eyes on the floor and immediately moved to a sidewall where I stood with my arms folded across my chest. Normally I don't stand like this because I am very aware of the signals that it sends out. But because this chance meeting caught me off guard I needed to cling to some security and I guess that security was myself. When he spoke back and asked how was I doing, I lifted my head to glance in his direction and found his eyes meeting mine with a pleasant smile on his face. In retrospect, his eyes and smile had a certain warmth but at the time, all I could do was say, "fine" and my eyes went back to the floor. We rode in silence for a couple of floors. As we got closer to the ninth floor (where the gym is located) out of the blue he asked if I have taken the yoga class on Sunday's. To understand his question, I must share with you that he and I have regularly taken a Tuesday night yoga class. To answer another question that I am sure everyone is thinking, yes this man is black. Black men/women do practice the discipline of yoga, but that is another topic. Anyway, when he asked me this question I stammered searching for words. While I knew that I had never taken the Sunday class, it shocked me that he knew I was in the Tuesday class. Right when the doors opened to the 9th floor, I was finally able to say, "I have only taken the Tuesday evening class". I tried to go about my business but as I got a few steps ahead of him it occurred to me that I was letting another opportunity pass me by. So I forced myself to come from behind my wall. I turned around with my stomach in knots and asked him about the Sunday class. We stood there for a few minutes talking about the class and when he was finished I didn't know what

else to say so I very awkwardly and abruptly said "see ya later" and I walked off. I am sure that he thinks that I am completely insane. Quite frankly, I often think so myself. That is the thing about social phobia, even when you really want to talk to people, sometimes you inexplicably just can't.

Another reason that I guard myself is because I am a pretty sensitive person. I am by no means saying that I am "thin-skinned" or I cry every time someone wants to "read" me. I can go toe-to-toe with the best of them. What I am saying is that when someone does get close to me, I completely invest all of me. When it comes to friendships or relationships, I don't live in gray areas and at times this has gotten me into some volatile situations. The result usually ends up being that I push these people away in order to protect my feelings. I don't like this about myself, but it is definitely a tactic that I use for my own survival. This is probably why my closest friends are people that have been a part of my life for 10 years or longer. They have seen all sides of me...the good, the bad and the ugly and they still hang around just as devoted and protective of me as I am of them.

The last reason that I am willing to share is the hardest one for me to share. I honestly must say that I don't find too many people that interesting. This is hard for me to say because there are a lot of people that already think that I am a snob and this statement somewhat supports their thought. Allow me to explain. I think that most people hide behind a pretense that everything in life is wonderful and ok. They opt to put on a "game face" instead of being themselves (if they know who they are). Think about it, how many people do you know that have gone into debt to own Gucci, Prada, a Lexus, a Mercedes, etc all for the sake of appearance? I'm not even going to mention the people that purchase things in someone else's name (yeah stunt gurls)....oops, I'm sorry I said I wasn't going to mention those people. Just for the record, I admit that I have a closet full of "game face" that I used to hide behind and sometimes still do. The difference in me now is that I know who I am and that those things don't define me. Then there are the people that are so insecure that all they can talk about is themselves. The spotlight must always shine on them. A couple of months ago I went to dinner with a friend who invited two other guys that I did not know. I was warned that one of the guys talked too much. At first, it didn't bother me because I know that when I encounter new people my guard is up and I usually sit on the periphery anyway. But as the night progressed I became completely annoyed. This person monopolized all of the conversations with nothing but self- indulgent topics and if the conversation dared to change to someone else's topic he tried to bring it right back to him. I was

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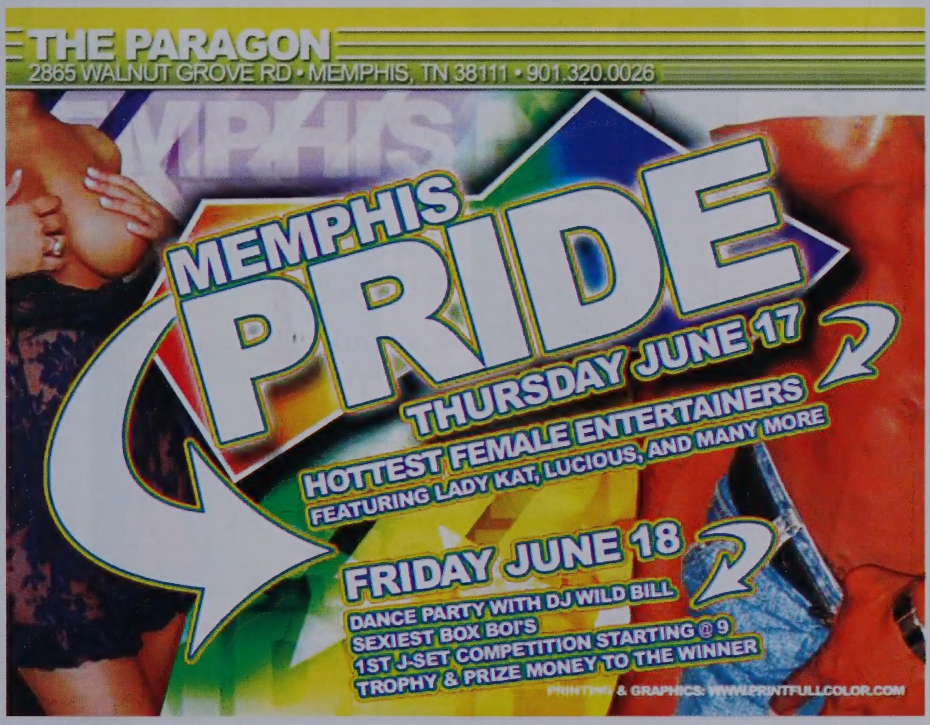
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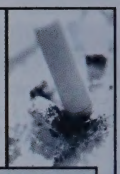
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 53

told later that the look of disdain on my face was "priceless". I couldn't help it. I cannot stand selfish, inconsiderate people. While I understood that his incessant meaningless chatter was because he probably did not feel like he measured up to the others at the table or maybe he felt the need to prove himself right off the bat. Whatever his reason, I know that it came from a place of insecurity and even though I know where his behavior came from I still find it unbearable and boring. It's boring because it's transparent and there is nothing substantial for me to sink my teeth into. In a word, it's just "fluff".

One of the things that I am most clear about is that my writing allows me to get my thoughts and feelings out on paper then detach myself from them and hopefully learn something about myself or heal a part of me that needs healing. I love it when I hear from readers that connect with something that I have written. Even if they strongly disagree, it says to me that I have gotten someone to think about something that they may have never considered. But if no one ever sends me emails or approaches me, that is all right because my writing is ultimately about...me.

iQUIT

A Quit Site for LGBT Smokers



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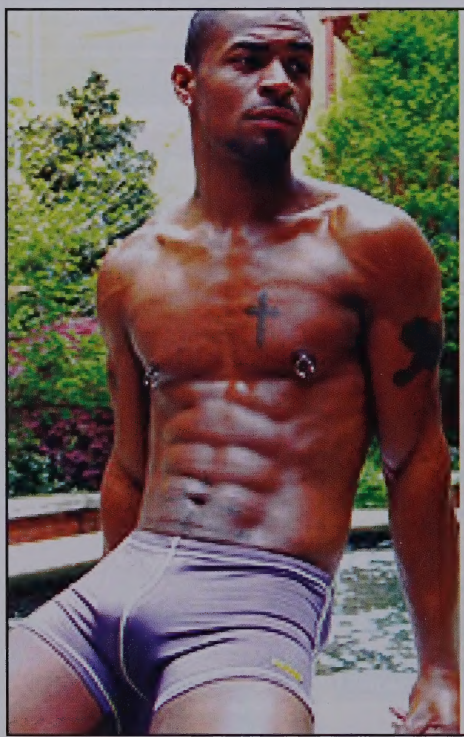

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GETTING YOUR MONTH OFF TO A GREAT START

ARIES

Aries - You are being indecisive about many things. Go on girl and just do it. You have what it takes to be a success and no one can stop you this month. Kick that bitch out of the way and claim what is rightfully yours.

TAURUS

Taurus - You egocentric, pig headed bull. Be nice to everyone you meet this month and you will see that life is not as mercilessly competitive as you think. Someone loves you and really wants to be your baby. Open up and let him.

GEMINI

Gemini - The summer is almost here and you are in the best of spirits. You are hopeful about the new boy that you have your eye on and finally spoke to. He is a good catch. Play your cards right and you will be one happy gal.

CANCER

Cancer - The misery of the last nine months of your life is finally over. Like the summer sun you, are brilliant and ready to shine. All sorts of opportunities are waiting for you to take them. So go on girl and just do it.

LEO

Leo - It is time for you to find your purpose in life. It is not just simply to live, but it is to live and seek happiness. That is your ultimate goal. So get that hot body of yours into even less clothing and let the kids know you are here, fierce and ready to truly live

VIRGO

Virgo - So he is back in your life and so are you. Back in your own life and feeling good about yourself. Isn't it nice to feel like you have accomplished something? Treat yourself to a fab reward. Do something daring and forget about what others might think.

LIBRA

Libra - Everyone thinks you are a bitch, but only half of them are right. Along with the title, miss bitch comes your many other glowing attributes. You are smart, talented and promiscuous, and this summer the folks won't know how to take you. You are a star girl, so just remember to always shine.

SCORPIO

Scorpio - What can be said about you other than that you are a self absorbed whore. The men in your life are sexually satisfied but all of them are trying to figure out when you will share one iota of emotion with them. As it stands they will have to wait, as you are simply not ready. The, saying goes all that glitters is not gold but you are!

SAGITTARIUS

Sagittarius - You better work heifer! You are so fetch! Fetch? Huh? Well that word is never going to catch on Gretchen but neither will you Minerva, unless you start changing today. You are all that and two bags of chips so start acting the part. Be nice to yourself this month. You deserve it.

CAPRICORN

Capricorn - Those you love most seem to give you the hardest time. A time is coming when you get to call the shots. People will respect you for the great human being that you are. Keep your head up. Better times are on the way.

AQUARIUS

Aquarius - All work and no play makes jack a mere toy. All your hard work is about to pay big dividends. Success comes through hard work and you have been working hard. The harvest is ripe and you are about to get yours. The people who love you have your back this month. Now reciprocate the love.

PISCES

Pisces - Miss Girl, Miss Girl. Stop running and settle down. Whether it be with a man, a job or a place to call home, just stop the running. See how much your lifewill improve as you settle down. Some boy is waiting to call you husband.

CHECK US OUT ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

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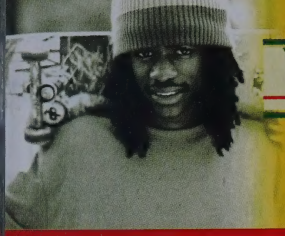
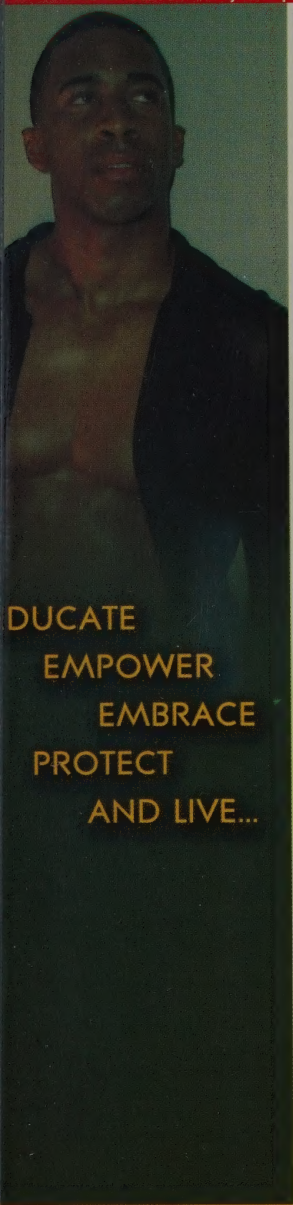


HOUSTON YOUNG MEN SAVING MEN

YMSM is a community empowerment project of the Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation.



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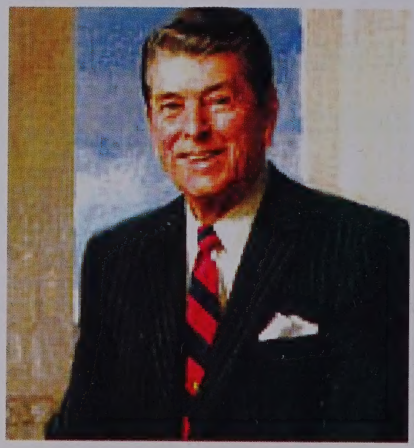
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health asked for more funding for their work on AIDS, they were routinely denied it. Between June 1981 and May 1982 the CDC spent less than $1 million on AIDS and $9 million on Legionnaires' disease. At that point more than 1,000 of the 2,000 reported AIDS cases resulted in death; there were fewer



than 50 deaths from Legionnaires' disease. This drastic lack of funding would continue throughout the Reagan years.

When health and support groups in the gay community were beginning to initiate education and prevention programs, they were denied federal funding. In October 1987, Helms amended a federal appropriations bill to prohibit AIDS education efforts that "encourage or promote homosexual activity"—that is, efforts that tell gay men how to have safe sex.

When almost all medical experts spoke out against mandatory HIV testing—since it would drive those at risk away from being tested—and groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union and Lambda Legal Defense Fund were attempting to combat discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS, Republicans such as Vice President George Bush in 1987 and Dannemeyer (in a California state referendum) in 1988 called for mandatory HIV testing.

Throughout all of this Reagan said nothing and did nothing. When Rock Hudson, a friend and colleague of the Reagans, was diagnosed with AIDS and died in 1985 (one of the 20,740 cases reported that year), Reagan still did not speak out as president. When family friend William F. Buckley, in a March 18, 1986, New York Times opinion article, called for mandatory testing for HIV and said that HIV-positive gay men should have this information forcibly tattooed on their buttocks (and IV drug users on their arms) Reagan said nothing. In 1986 (after five years of complete silence), when Surgeon General C. Everett Koop released a report calling for AIDS education in schools, Bennett and Bauer did everything possible to undercut and prevent funding for Koop's too-little, too-late initiative. Reagan again said and did nothing. By the end of 1986, 37,061 AIDS cases had been reported; 16,301 people had died.

My students ask me how all of this could have happened. They are all smart, they understand politics, they understand the fear of AIDS, and they understand how complicated—and confusing—history and life can be. But they cannot understand such indifference, even when politically motivated. I told one of my students that the most memorable Reagan AIDS moment for me was at the 1986 centenary rededication of the Statue of Liberty. The Reagans were there sitting next to French president Francois Mitterand and his wife, Danielle. Bob Hope was onstage entertaining the all-star audience. In the middle of a series of one-liners, Hope quipped, "I just heard that the Statue of Liberty has AIDS, but she doesn't know if she got it from the mouth of the Hudson or the Staten Island Fairy." As the television camera panned the audience, the Mitterands looked appalled. The Reagans were laughing. By the end of 1989 and the Reagan years, 115,786 women and men had been diagnosed with AIDS in the United States, and more than 70,000 of them had died.

The protests against The Reagans are really nothing more than a political sideshow with conservatives flexing their muscles (and threatening an economic boycott) to protect their own version of history. The genre of the television miniseries, even one based in contemporary history, is by its nature a project of interpretation—a fact that seems to have escaped the protesters. But the irony is that portraying Reagan as being antigay because of his religious convictions, while wrong, is in fact the kind interpretation. Looking at history, it is clear that Reagan's inaction during the first decade of the AIDS epidemic was due to indifference, emotional callousness, and greed for political power. In the end I agree with those who protest The Reagans—CBS should have told us the truth.

Michael Bronski is a film critic for the Forward, where this essay originally appeared.

CLUB CITY LIGHTS

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FRIDAY
August 6, 2004

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August 7, 2004

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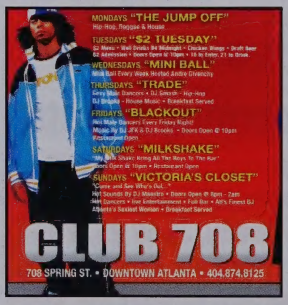

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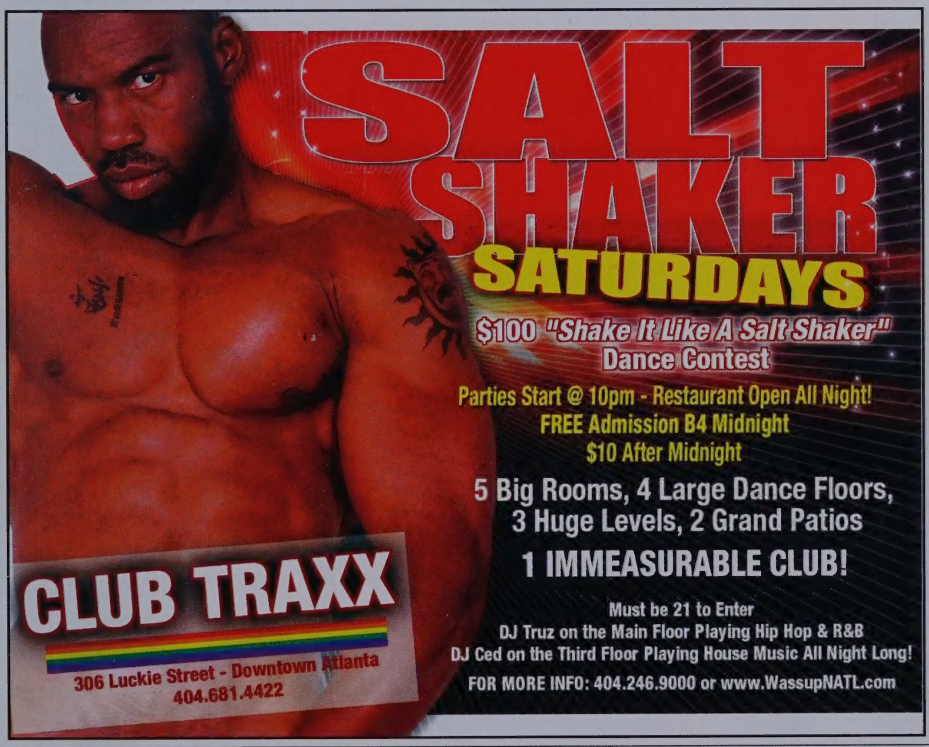
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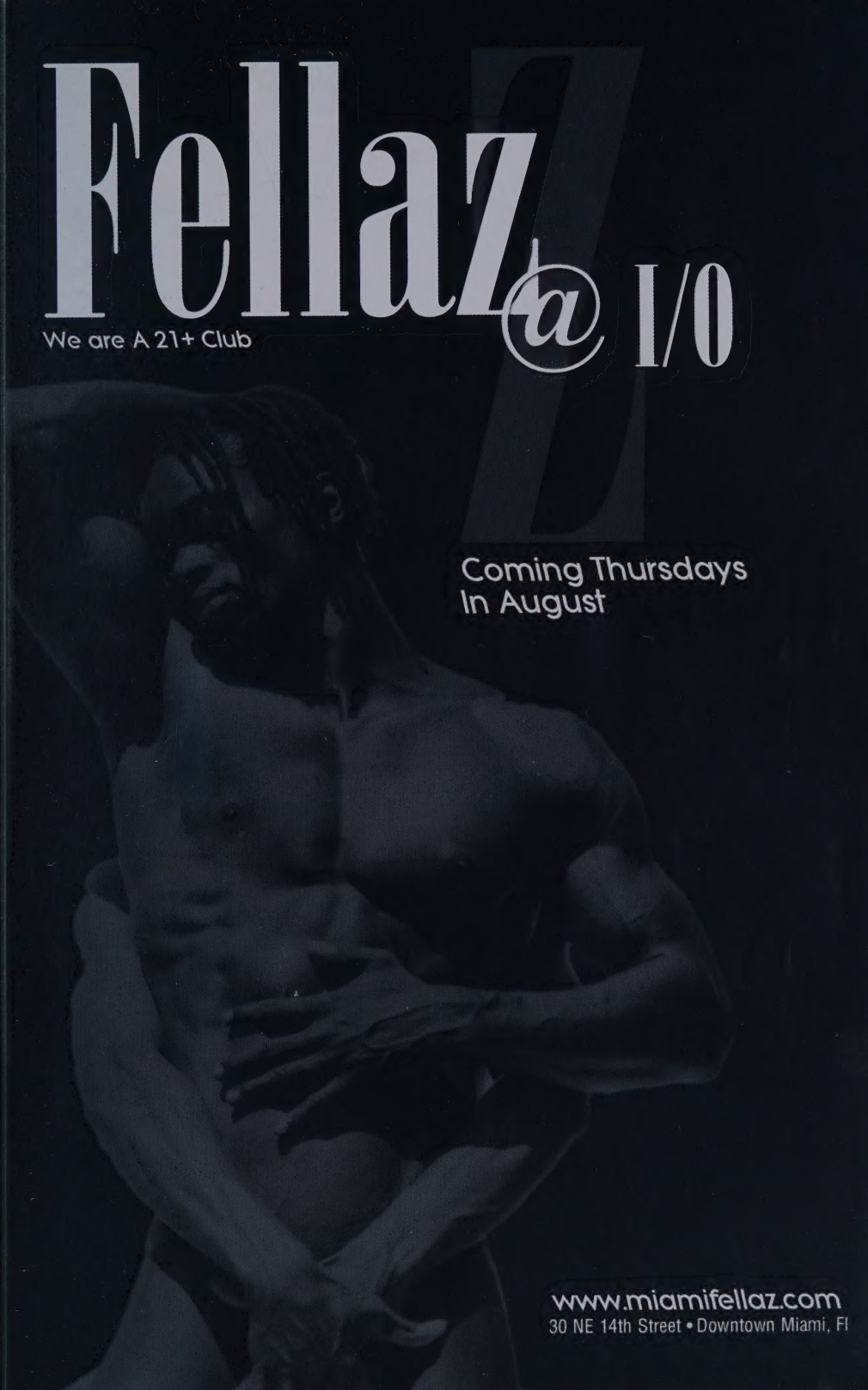

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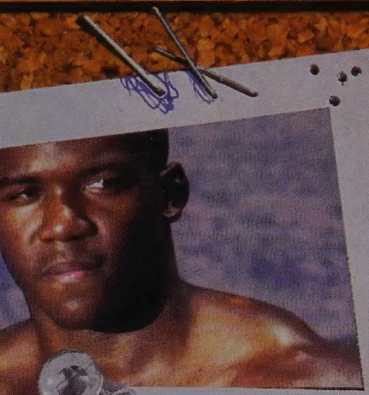

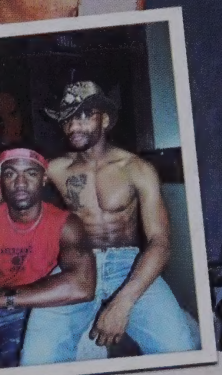

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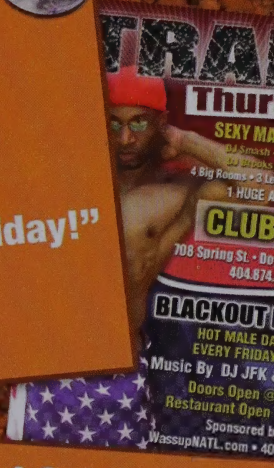

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Clikque MAGAZINE

EDITORIAL

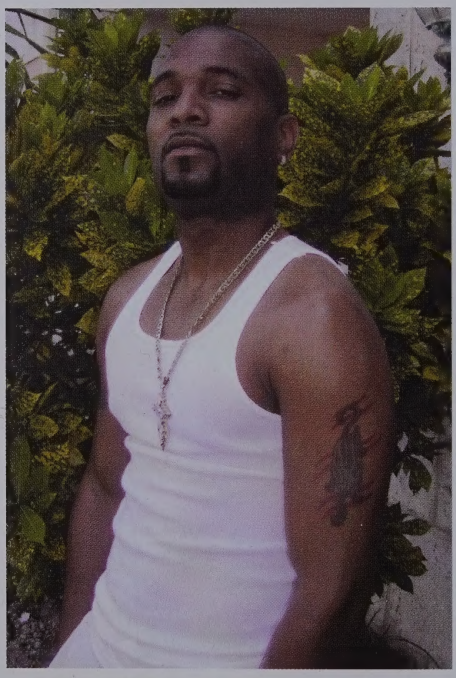
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF DWIGHT POWELL

Pride In The City

What is it to have and or show pride? Is it a sense of one's dignity or values or self-respect. Is it the pleasure or satisfaction taken in an achievement, possession, or association.

Or is to have pride an arrogant, unreasonable conceit of one's own superiority in talent, beauty, wealth, rank, etc., which manifests itself in lofty airs, distance, reserve, and often in contempt of others.

Over the next few months, when attending either POCC's Pride In The City,New York, ITLA's Atlanta Black Pride, or Dallas Black Pride, ask yourself, why am I attending these pride events? What is it to have black gay pride? What does this mean? Am I expressing my pride when I finally grab a rainbow colored flag, march down main street, and show the world that I am not afraid that they can see me... letting them know that I am gay?

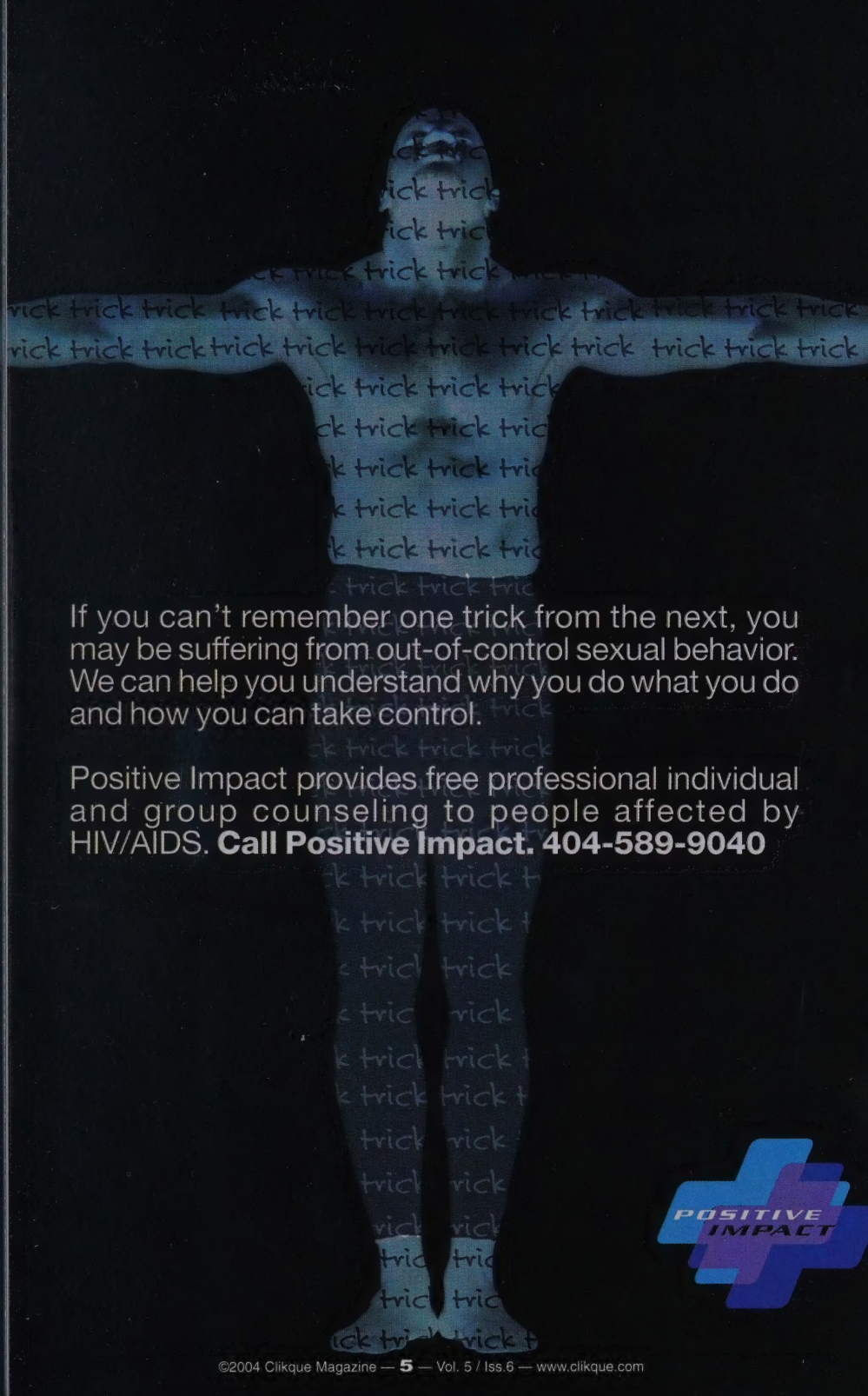


Pride to me, is a comforting reality that it's ok, ok to be who we are, BLACK GAY MALES. Events such as DC Black Pride afforded me that comfort zone. The workshops and film festivals. The literature and poetry readings. The relaxing and entertaining picnics, that provided opportunities for me to mingle and meet hundreds of people with similar concerns and desires as myself. People from various professions such as doctors, lawyers, gender illusionists, politicians, teachers, waiters, maids.... EVERYONE; seeking a place that allows them to be free, to be themselves. For those of us that find it difficult to express this kind of pride in our everyday surroundings, pride events such as those in New York, Atlanta and DC, can be a welcoming release of built up emotions and frustration.

While the night-time parties and festivities are indeed, must experience events, let this year be the year that you'll become a participant, in the not-as-glamorous daytime activities. It is there that you will probably discover that pride is more than parties and boys, but rather an "EVENT" showcasing us, our lives, and our experiences.

Have lots of fun, learn more about yourself and be safe.

Dwight Powell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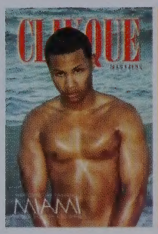

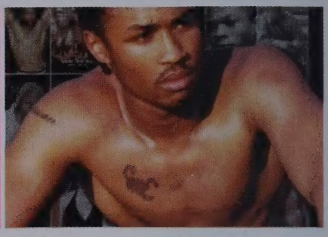

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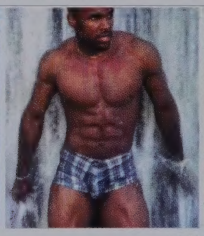

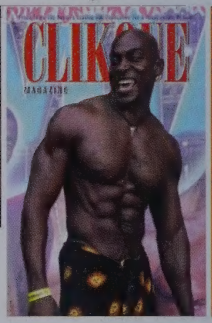

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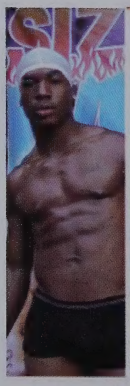

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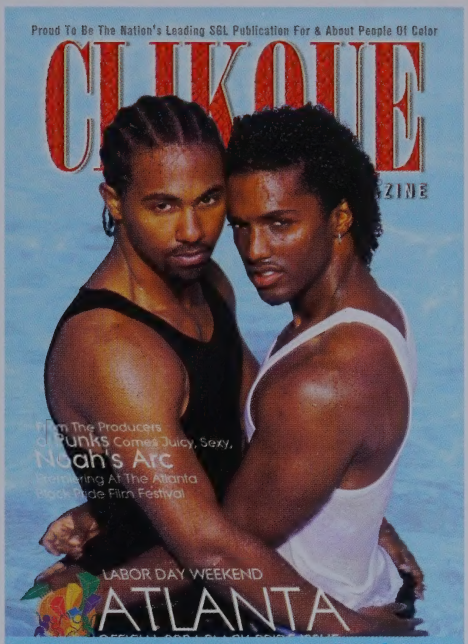

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Look for our booth at NYC Black Pride sponsored by People of Color On Crisis. **$Free.** visit www.pocc.org for more details

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Clikque Magazine release party. Call 954-455-8781 and find out how you can get on the VIP list

HOUSTON, TEXAS

FRIDAY AUG 20TH, CALIENTE

Clikque Magazine returns homes for a kick-ass Hip-Hop party at 1415 Bar & Grill (Formally Sonomas). Dwight Powell from Sizzle 2004 and DJ Gavin T from Club Boi will be bringing the Heat from Miami. November cover model will be chosen from the crowd. Lots of prizes and surprises. Let's see if Beyonce shows up. **$12.00** **See Ad On Page 11**

SEPTEMBER '04

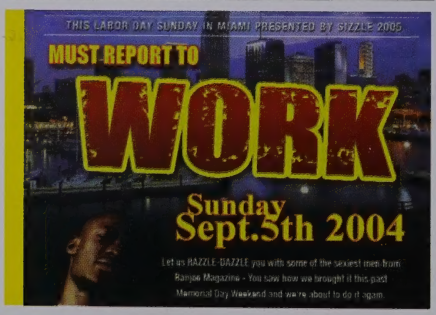
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD, ATL BLACK PRIDE

Clikque Magazine sponsors VIP Reception For ITLA VIPs, Sponsors and invited guests. **$FREE** **See Ad On Page 32**

MIAMI, FLORIDA

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 5TH, WORK @ SOHO LOUNGE



This Labor Day Weekend, we want you to report to WORK for the Largest Hip-Hop Party in Miami. You will be dazzled by some of the sexiest men from Banjee Magazine. You saw how they did it at Sizzle2004 - Come and experience it again.Dress to sweat. **$15.00** All Night. **See Ad On Page 80**

OCTOBER '04

DALLAS, TEXAS

FRIDAY OCTOBER 1ST - SUNDAY OCTOBER 3RD DALLAS BLACK PRIDE

Clikque Magazine sponsors Pool Party & various events **$CALL** **See Ad On Page 78**

NOVEMBER '04

MIAMI, FLORIDA

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 26TH, THE WHITE PARTY

For the first time The White Party will be giving a HIP-HOP party during it's week of events and has invited Clikque Magazine and Sizzle 2005 to Host this huge event. This event benefits Care Resource. **$15.00** in advance $20 at the door **See Ad On Page 15 or visit www.sizzle2005.com**

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Clikque MAGAZINE

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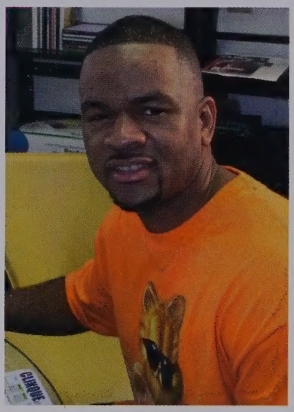
JUDGE NOT

Written By Lewis Nicholson

As I sit here pondering what to write about I ask myself, what people will think of me and the article I am writing. My first thought was who will think I don't practice what I preach or who will be offended by my writing, and lastly, how will what I am writing affect my readership? Then it occurred to me, that all my thoughts are on how will I be judged. As a result, I am writing on the issue of judging. How judgmental am I? Is life about being judged and how important it is to live up to the judge's expectations?



How judgmental am I? At first thought I would have to say that I am the least judgmental person I know but that does not make me non-judgmental. Very rarely do I consider what people do with their lives and draw any conclusions about that person. I look for the good in people. I don't care if you are promiscuous, if you are homeless, if you have no job and don't want to work, nor do I care if you take tina seven days a week.

Does that make me non-judgmental? No, it does not. What it makes me is tolerant. Truth be told, I am obsessed with body images and while I am no Tyson Beckford, I find myself thinking, she is fat, she needs to lose weight or she would be so pretty a few pounds lighter. Does any of this matter? No, it does not. A person's weight is their prerogative. My obesity does not interfere with your life so why does it bother you so much?

Let's talk about life for a minute and ponder the question. Is all of life just one big competition being judged every step of the way? Actually, life is one big stage and we all take turns as contestants and then as judges. My one and a half year-old nephew is the Gap kid. Well, he is the black Gap kid. He won the spot from thousands seen. He looks at his picture in the store and says, " Stefan, me" with a big grin on his face. His mother though she was paid handsomely, for his cute unknowing image all over the Gap store started off his pageant days at a very early age. Though he is not yet scarred by the competition, because he is too young to understand, it is undeniable that the judging of young Stefan has begun.

Have you ever noticed that the smart kids in grade school are the prettier kids? How ironic, as the less beautiful kids catch up and surpass those later in life. The reason for this is that teachers focus on pretty little Pagan and handsome Harry more so, than they do on obese Owen or thick lipped Tamara.

The same drama continues throughout our adolescent and adult lives. What people think of us is very important to most of us and before we know it we are living for the judges and not ourselves. We try to please our parents and teachers in grade school. Then we try to please our friends and fit in as teenagers and not to mention as adults, we try to please the dick we are getting from whomever. We become obsessed in what people think of us that we forget that our lives is just that, our lives. No matter what others think we can only control our lives and we should live it the way we really want.

Now that we have established that we are thrown into the competition of life and being judged every step of the way, lets think about how important it is to live up to the judges expectations.

The only time it is necessary to live up to the judges expectations is when you are actually competing in a pageant or contest of some sort, that is designed to be judged on specific criteria. However, if there isn't a tiara off to the side, along with a cash prize, then you need to set your own rules and be your own judge. Quite frankly, throw out the score sheet and do as you please. What others think of you is not important if you are doing your best, being true to yourself and being impeccable with your word.

In essence therefore, the important thing is to live your life for yourself. You are already a winner just be always being true to you.

So strut for the judges, let them watch you serve, throw them shade, eat the runway and regardless of what they might say, do it like no one is watching. CLK

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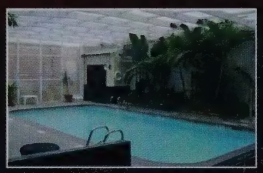

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COME HELL OR HIGH WATER

THE JOB HAS TO GET DONE

July 29, 2004 Dallas, Texas, reporting during the ongoing Monsoon/Deluge of July 28th, 29th. My beloved Brothers/sisters, fathers/mothers, sons/daughters and other readers of Clikque Magazine, I ask your forgiveness for my delay in reporting to you on the HIV/AIDS catastrophe that has stricken our Black people throughout the world and especially in our Motherland, Africa.

As a member of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA), which charges it's members to provide the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson and President Bush with advice, recommendations and information that is at each member's disposal, for relief of the AIDS catastrophe. For those of you who know me personally I continue to execute my advisory duties honesty, steadfastness and the old time 1960's Civil Rights era courage - come hell or high water.

The International AIDS Conference recently concluded in Bangkok, Thailand, and for us {Black folks} the news went from horrifying too tragic (mind you this is 22 years into the epidemic). Each of my readers knows someone with the deadly AIDS virus or someone or many that have already succumbed to this Scourge of the 21st Century. In 2003 5 million people were newly infected with the Deadly AIDS virus [Please do not believe the hype - AIDS will still kill you DEAD!}. In 2003 3 million people died from AIDS will a total of 21.8 million body bags since the beginning of the epidemic. Just in case any of you all have been too busy too notice: the majorities of the 21.8 million dead bodies are black people and the majority of them or black women! In our country black SGLs (Same Gender Loving) males the heaviest and most vicious of the HIV/AIDS disease burden, with Black women close on our heels. The majority of Children in our nation with HIV/AIDS are Black Children. I refuse to continue to wax eloquent about how horrible this Epidemic is for us. Suffice it to say that HIV is a weapon of mass destruction when it comes to its effect on Black People, not only in America, but also throughout the world. The question is what are we going to do about it?

The answer to that question is much of nothing. Let us cut to the chase. The American taxpayers and other public and private entities have shouldered the overwhelming majority of the burden for providing the economic resources (money) for black organizations to prevent the spread of this disease amongst our people and to provide life sustaining services to those of us who already have it. Brothers/Sisters, lets take of the blinders, pull the cotton from our ears and get our feet out of our mouths: this approach is killing us. At the recent 23rd Meeting of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS I made it quite clear and had it entered into the records my concerns regarding the adverse impact of individual and institutionalized racism on the disproportionate health outcomes for Black Americans when it comes to AIDS. I went on to point out my observation of the domination, control and manipulation of billions and billions of public and private dollars for HIV/AIDS relief in this country by White gay men and the organizations run by and/or controlled by them. It should be apparent to even a deaf, dumb and blind individual, with severe mental defects and disorders, that our white gay and lesbian brothers/sisters are either clueless as to what to do to effectively serve Black people with or at highest risk for contracting HIV or they are suffering from a chronic case of apathy by choice. Let me reassure all of you: I love all 6 billion plus of God's Children on this planet but I do and will take issue with any of their behaviors that cause pain, death and suffering to innocent individuals and/or groups. Remember, many white gay nightclubs, throughout America still have "Black Folks nights" at their clubs (one night out of the week or month when Black people are made to feel welcome.

We have only ourselves to blame, primarily, for this tragic state of affairs. During the 22 years of the AIDS Death March (Pandemic) black gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, transgender, Down-Lo (deep Cover, In the Bushes, Between-the-Sheets, or whatever) brothers have been missing in action, asleep at the switch, or out to lunch for lunch meat when it comes to coughing up some serious dollars of their own to fight this monster called HIV/AIDS. This has, truly, not been the case with our White Gay/Lesbian counterparts on the other side of town. Please, let us refrain from engaging in this propaganda, sham and out right lie that Black Gays/lesbians, etc., don't have the money to donate. I heard just last week that some Brothers/Sisters are feverously organizing a Black

COME HELL CONTINUES ON PAGE 16

Mr. Don Sneed is a senior staff writer of Clikque Magazine. As Agency Director of Renaissance III in Dallas, Texas, Mr. Sneed has been a pillar in our community fighting the spread of HIV and AIDS. In January of 2003 Mr. Sneed was sworn in by Claude Allen, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, to serve a four-year term on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA).

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Gay/Lesbian Pride week in Buctussell/hootersville just in time for Kwanzaa/Christmas/New Years holiday season and the three main hotels and other venues are already sold out!!! Black Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals, SGLs, Down-Lo {Under-the-Covers, in-the-bushes, "EE Trade Boiz {electronic-email} whatever, have more than adequate disposable cash to match Black AIDS Service Organizations annual Budgets, dollar-for-dollar, in private donations, yet for over 22 years they have refused to because they are too self-centered, selfish and self-absorbed to not only give of their money, talents and time but also to even give a damn!!! This sort of behavior, trust, is sure to bring the wrath of God upon the heads of the individual and collective perpetrators of such a crime against humanity on this side of the sky, not on some "Judgment Day" after everyone is dead (probably from HIV/AIDS). Is Humanity to believe that a white SGLs life is more valuable to their brothers and sisters than ours is to us?!!!

Many Black AIDS Service Organizations, throughout America, are struggling to keep our doors open and executive directors are falling dead at their desks, having to continue to work 80 plus hour weeks under the horrific mandatory constraints, stipulations and regulations imposed upon us by public and private funding entities. Let us be for real my brothers and sisters; we are children of God and human too. In an effort, for us, as a people, who can afford it, to more effectively respond to a WMD terror which has claimed the lives of over 5 million Black women already; KIXCON (King-X Continuum), Inc., Renaissance III, Inc., and the young Black gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and Down-Lo brothers of the ALBRC (Abe Lincoln Black Republican Caucus) Dallas, Chapter, will introduce the 1-in 5-500 Emergency Black Private Citizens HIV/AIDS RELIEF Campaign.

The 1-in-5-500 Campaign will be announced at a press/media conference in Atlanta, Georgia, on August 18, 2004. This campaign will call upon 500 of our Black Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Down-lo/etc., Brothers/Sisters in five major cities to donate $1,000.00, within 30 days to a designated Black AIDS Service organization in their hometown with an ongoing Pledge of continuing support for a five-year period.

Because our beloved Brothers/Sisters have been so reluctant to contribute their minds, talent, time and most of all money, to save one another's lives {as our white counterparts do on the other side of town} the organizers of the 1-in-5-500 Black Private Citizens HIV/AIDS Emergency relief Campaign, will be borrowing a tactic from our counterparts playbook and publicly out those SGLs, who can afford it, who refuse to help us help one another. It is an insult and an international disgrace for us to ask and expect others to do for us that which we could and should be doing for ourselves. Please LOVE {not lust} one another. Love is Life.

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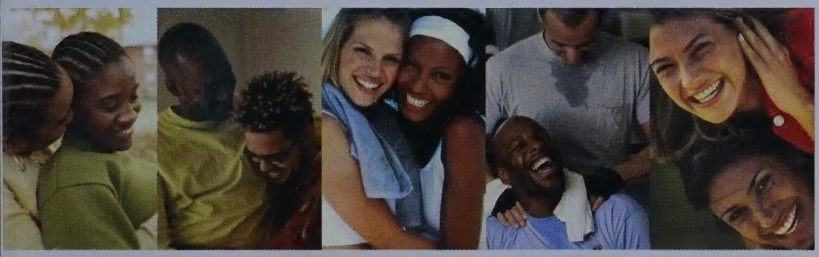

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STUDY FINDS NO EVIDENCE OF HIV SUPERINFECTION AMONG HIGHLY EXPOSED COUPLES

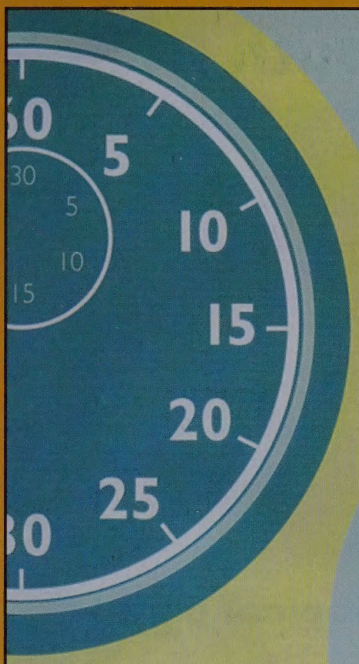
A study of 33 HIV-positive couples who engage in frequent unprotected sex finds no evidence of HIV superinfection, the term given to the idea that one can be infected with multiple strains of HIV that are slightly genetically different. The study by researchers at the Gladstone Institute of Virology and Immunology in San Francisco, which was presented at the 15th International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, calls into question the widely held perception that HIV-positive people are susceptible to additional infections by viral variants that may be drug-resistant or more virulent, says lead researcher Robert Grant, MD.

The ongoing investigation, known as the Positive Partners study, began in 2001 and will eventually involve up to 200 HIV-infected couples. It is designed to investigate the incidence of HIV superinfection. In addition to the couples cited in these preliminary study findings, 30

individuals reporting multiple partners were included in the study. One of them, a participant who had recently developed HIV infection, presented with a highly divergent variation of the virus at a follow-up visit. "This one case demonstrates that people who have recently developed HIV-1 can harbor multiple viruses," notes Grant. "In contrast, superinfection has not appeared in people who have had the disease for many years, as our couples have."

The possibility that superinfection may be restricted to a short window period after the development of HIV has been suggested by experimental studies in nonhuman primates. In addition, a recent mathematical analysis demonstrated that superinfection restricted to a short window period after HIV seroconversion could account for the high prevalence of recombinant and dual infections observed in some parts of the world. This analysis has just been published in the July 23, 2004, issue of AIDS, the journal of the International AIDS Society, as a paper titled "HIV-1 Superinfection and Viral Diversity," by Grant and investigators Kimber L. Gross and Travis C. Porco of the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

"Studies are warranted to better understand why superinfection among patients who have had HIV for a long time is rare," Grant explains. "The mechanisms preventing superinfection may include specific or non-specific antiviral immune responses or viral interference. If there is indeed an immune response at play, it's reasonable to investigate the possibility of inducing that response with a vaccine that can be made available to high-risk HIV-negative individuals."



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Written By Carrington JaRel Lei

Does the black family bear some responsibility for

the "DL" brotha and the HIV infection rate in African-American women?

At some point, and who dares suggest when, "sup!", "baby daddy", sagging pants, Escalades on 22's, basketball and hip - hop all became synonymous with the African-American male. As "flattering" as all of that may seem (and that's usually depending upon who you are and where you come from), there is yet another affectation to add to our repertoire. Neatly tucked beneath our mattresses right next to the guns, gold teeth, demo-tapes and drug stashes; black men can now proudly lay claim to the term, "DL".

According to the latest CDC statistics, African-American women account for 72% of all new HIV cases and HIV/AIDS is among the top three causes of death for African-American men ages 25-54. While not totally disagreeing with those numbers - as I have complete confidence in the people who have devoted their time and energy to researching them, I am not as emphatic regarding the implication behind them. How does one alter the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the African - American bisexual male without addressing the justification behind the bisexual male?

As the current trend in pop-culture seems to have become laying blame for these numbers and their contribution to the breakdown of the black family on the shoulders of the "DL brotha", it is just as alarming that no one seems to be willing to call to task the black family for their contributions in creating the "DL brotha"!

"Faggot! Punk! Sissy! Gay! Funny!" Depending upon who you are and the context of your delivery, directing one of these terms at a black man can either get you dismissed as a hater or just as easily, get you a quick ass-kickin'. As a kid growing up in a not so typical black family, I reflect upon my own youth and entree' into adulthood where, rare was the occasion that I can recall a time when either of those words were directed towards someone as a term of endearment. Never have I witnessed someone walk up to a father and his thirteen year old son to offer, "Man, your little faggot has some serious speed; you should try to get him on the track team." Or, "Girl, I remember when I used to change his diapers, now look at him, he turned out to be a handsome lil'punk!"

Words such as these foster and inspire self-loathing, self-hatred, embarrassment and ultimately, the desire for a child to distance himself from all things gay or, "faggot-like". These comments are sometimes used in everyday conversation by a father, an older brother, an uncle, a mother, and in some cases even "granny" had a comment about the "bull-dagga" down the street.

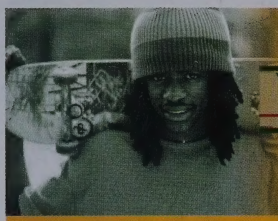
Never met with a smile or a hug, these terms are always spat with disdain, contempt or hatred and typically coincide with feelings of anger. What child struggling to understand his/or her own same-sex attraction dare reveal these confusing feelings to his family or anyone close to him or her? Reveal that you are gay or bisexual to the very same people who have inadvertently addressed you with such repulsion? How dare we suggest that these children are now expected to approach friends and family with the revelation that, "I'm too, a faggot!"?

The African-American family has for far too long been caught up in what everyone else thinks and not spending enough time focusing on self and unconditional love. In a lot of cases, the crack-head we hide our valuables from when he stops by for a visit is more welcomed into our homes than the sister who is simply in love with another sister. I've personally gone into homes where there were pictures on the walls and atop the television of the son who is serving a life-sentence in prison for his "third-strike" or in some cases murder and not one of the son who went to college graduated, bought his own home, his own car and has never been in trouble. We're ashamed of him because he has a voice that is higher than we deem it should be, or dare I say because his eyebrows are arched. Why? Because he chooses to love another man and even with all of his accomplishments, he is still an embarrassment to the family.

We are so quick to point out the passages in the bible that single out homosexuality, but we make room at our tables for the adulterer who brings his woman to

BY THE #s

According to statistics received from the Center for Disease Control, one in 160 black women are infected by HIV and one-fourth of them are unaware of their status. Of particular concern is the fact that **64%** of all new HIV cases reported in 2003 were Black women.



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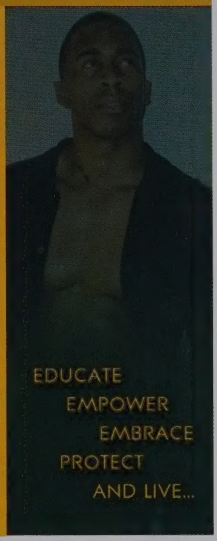


the family reunion while his wife is at home.

Is it acceptable for a man to worship Michael Jordan, Lie to his brother, Covet his neighbors wife, commit adultery, and steal from his job, yet give him a pass while breaking five of the Ten Commandments but search the bible for a passage that speaks of homosexuality in an effort to demonize the homosexual? We have a tendency to pick which laws in the bible we choose to be governed by, which are usually the ones that apply to everyone else so we negate the fact that we continually break most of the Ten Commandments - "How 'bout them punks?"

At some point in our society, homosexuality has inched its way up the sin hierarchy to take its place as the ultimate sin and this writer does not believe that it's fair to the millions of same gender-lover people who work, love and lead productive lives to continue this destructive trend.

The black family, the black church and the black community as a whole has jumped on the "gays are evil" bandwagon and damaged our children to the point that when they become men, they forgo who they truly are in an effort to please society, but most importantly, to please those closest to them, family. There are more black men who marry and have children, yet lead the "DL" lifestyle because the black community dictates that they are supposed to and not necessarily because they want to, than most realize. Many gay or bisexual men live in cities far away from the realities of "home" because the reality is that it's more acceptable to be who you are from afar because that way we don't have to see it. Where are the statistics for the number of men and women who are HIV positive because they don't love themselves enough to truly care about protecting themselves from a possibly deadly disease because they've never felt loved?

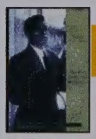
Society says that as a black man by the time you are twenty-three, you are supposed to have at least three children with two baby mommas and at least one woman on the side and if not, you must be a fag! We need to love ourselves and our children enough to ensure that they know that no matter what they are or who they become, family is a bond that nobody, no disease, and no orientation can break.

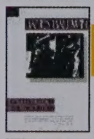
The Black man's disappointment with his effeminate son is evident, whereas the white man, like his sons choice or not, is at minimum tolerant of it and in a lot of cases the lover/boyfriend becomes a part of the family.

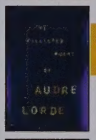
As African-Americans, we have to become more conscious of the affect our personal beliefs have on our children and allow our children to become who they are on their own. When a white man has an affair his family doesn't know about it until he leaves her a house in his will because he understands the importance of allegiance to family and nothing, not even a long - term affair, will interfere with that. We, as African - Americans seem to be more caught up with what Miss Gladys down the street thinks than what our children might be going through. Although I think we understand that we must love our child because of who he is, the hard part is getting us to understand that there may also come a time when you have to love your child despite who he is.

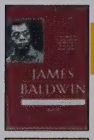
From Barnes & Noble

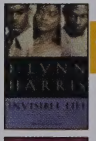
TOP SELLING GAY TITLES OF ALL TIME

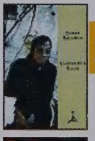












#1 Invisible Life

by E lynn Harris

Invisible Life is the story of a young man's coming of age. Law school, girlfriends, and career choices were all part of Raymond Tyler's life, but there were other, more terrifying issues for him to confront. Being black was tough enough, but Raymond was becoming more and more conscious of sexual feelings that he knew weren't "right." He was completely committed to Sela, his longtime girlfriend, but his attraction to Kelvin, whom he had met during his last year in law school, had become more than just a friendship. No matter how much he tried to suppress them, his feelings were deeply sexual.

Fleeing to New York to escape both Sela and Kelvin,

#2 GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN FROM THE PUBLISHER

"Mountain," Baldwin said, "is the book I had to write if I was ever going to write anything else."

Go Tell It On The Mountain, first published in 1953, is Baldwin's first major work, a novel that has established itself as an American classic. With lyrical precision, psychological directness, and a rage that is at once unrelenting and compassionate, Baldwin chronicles a fourteen-year-old boy's discovery of the terms of his identity as the stepson of the minister of a storefront Pentecostal church in Harlem one Saturday in March of 1935. Baldwin's rendering of his protagonist's spiritual, sexual, and moral struggle of self-invention opened new possibilities in the American language and in the way Americans understand themselves.

Top Sell African-American Gay Fiction of all time

1. Invisible Life
E. Lynn Harris / Paperback / Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group / February 1994

2. Go Tell It on the Mountain
James Baldwin / Mass Market Paperback / Dell Publishing Company, Incorporated / May 1976

3. Just as I Am
E. Lynn Harris / Paperback / Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group / February 1995

4. And This Too Shall Pass
E. Lynn Harris / Paperback / Random House Adult Trade Publishing Group / March 1997

5. Abide with Me
E. Lynn Harris / Paperback / Knopf Publishing Group / May 2000

6. Giovanni's Room
James Baldwin / Paperback / Dell Publishing Company, Incorporated / June 2000

7. Mama Black Widow
Iceberg Slim / Paperback / Lushena Publishing / June 1972

8. Another Country
James Baldwin / Paperback / Knopf Publishing Group / January 1993

9. If This World Were Mine
E. Lynn Harris / Paperback / Random House Adult Trade Publishing Group / July 1998

10. Love the One You're With
James Earl Hardy / Paperback / HarperCollins Publishers / July 2003

11. Go Tell It On the Mountain (Modern Library Series)
James Baldwin / Hardcover / The Random House Publishing Group / July 1995

12. Zami: A New Spelling of My Name: A Biomythography
Audre Lorde / Paperback / Crossing Press, Inc., The / April 1988

13. Go Tell It on the Mountain
James Baldwin / Paperback / Dell Publishing Company, Incorporated / June 2000

14. Loving Her
Ann Allen Shockley / Paperback / Northeastern University Press / September 1997

15. Collected Poems of Audre Lorde
Audre Lorde / Paperback / Norton, W. W. & Company, Inc. / January 2000

16. Necessary Hunger
Nina Revoyr / Paperback / St. Martin's Press / March 1998

17. Revenge Is Best Served Cold
Tracie Howard / Paperback / NAL Trade / October 2001

18. B-Boy Blues: A Seriously Sexy, Fiercely Funny, Black-on-Black Love Story
James Earl Hardy / Paperback / Alyson Publications / November 1994

19. Invisible Life
E. Lynn Harris / Audio / Random House Audio Publishing Group / March 1999

20. Love's Instruments
Melvin Dixon / Paperback / Tia Chucha Press / October 1995
Our Price: $10.95
Usually ships within 2-3 days

21. 2nd Time Around
James Earl Hardy / Paperback / Alyson Publications / September 1996

22. If Only for One Nite
James Earl Hardy / Paperback / Alyson Publications / May 1998

23. Visitation of the Spirits
Randall Kenan / Paperback / Knopf Publishing Group / January 2000

24. Giovanni's Room
James Baldwin / Hardcover / The Random House Publishing Group / May 2001

25. Don't Explain: Short Fiction
Jewelle Gomez / Paperback / Firebrand Books / July 1998

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

Raymond finds himself more confused than ever before. New relationships—both male and female—give him enormous pleasure but keep him from finding the inner peace and lasting love he so desperately desires. The horrible illness and death of a friend force Raymond, at last, to face the truth.

Invisible Life has been hailed as "one of the most thought-provoking books—since James Baldwin's Another Country" (Richmond Voice), and Harris's "stories have become the toast of bookstores, reading groups, men, women, and gay and straight people" (Atlanta Journal-Constitution). Proceeds from the sale of this special fifth anniversary edition will go to the E. Lynn Harris Foundation, a charitable organization that gives young people across the country the opportunity to study writing with established authors, and also aids emerging artists.

TOP 10 BOOKS SOLD AT OUTWRITE

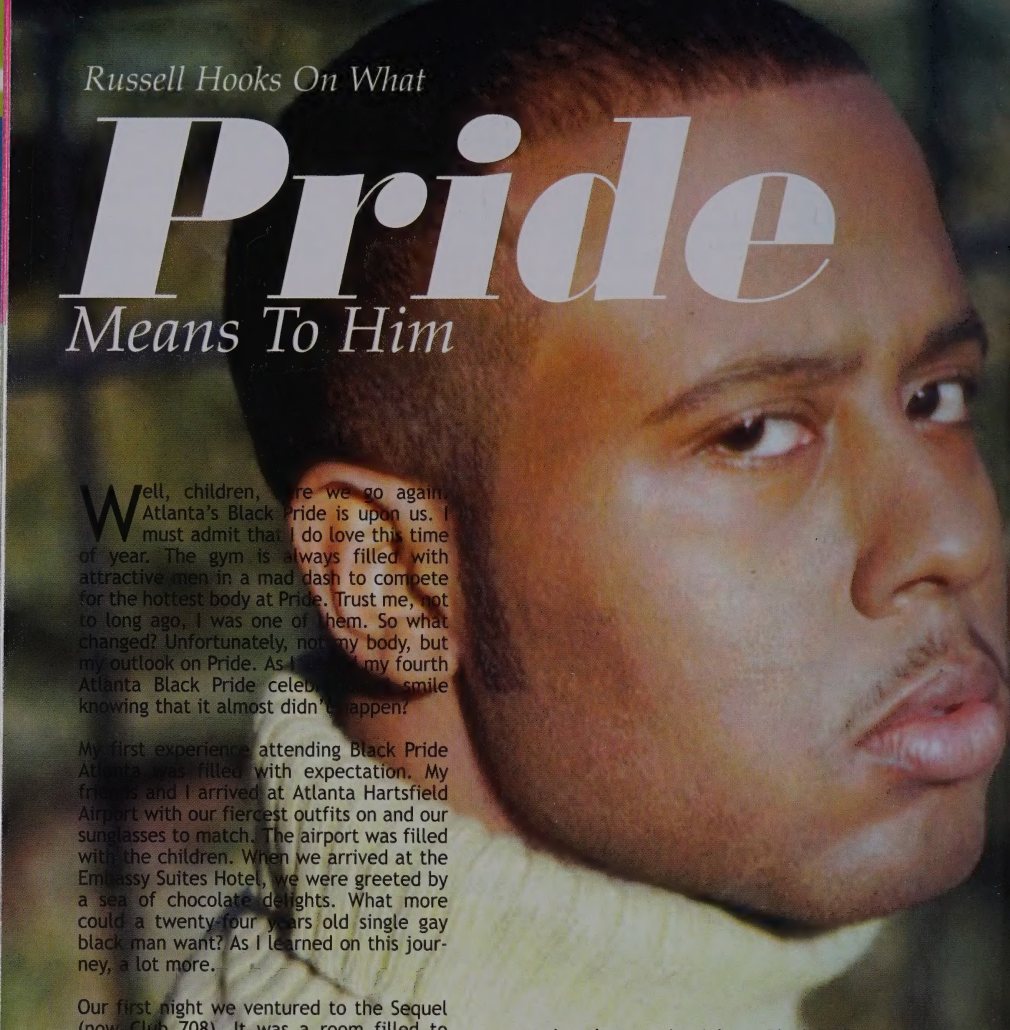
1	***The Angel & The Poper***, by J.L. king, *Random House*
2	***What Becomes ...Broken Heart***, E Lynn Harris, *Random House*
3	***I'm On My Way***, Christopher Davis, *Author House*
4	***Luther***, Craig Seymour, *Harper Collins*
5	***Black, Gay and Christian***, Herndon L Davis, *Davis, Lett & Assoc.*
6	***Brothers of New Essex***, Belasco, *PGW*
7	***Passion Marks***, Lee Hayes, *Simon & Schuster*
8	***Any Way the Wind Blows***, E Lynn Harris, *Random House*
9	***Kindred***, Octavia Butler, *Houghton Miffin*
10	***If This World Were Mine***, E Lynn Harris, *Random House*

The list was compiled for Clikque Magazine courtesy of Outwrite Bookstore in Atlanta, Ga. Pick-up one of the books above by visiting Outwrite or a bookstore near you.

Russell Hooks On What

Pride

Means To Him



Well, children, here we go again. Atlanta's Black Pride is upon us. I must admit that I do love this time of year. The gym is always filled with attractive men in a mad dash to compete for the hottest body at Pride. Trust me, not to long ago, I was one of them. So what changed? Unfortunately, not my body, but my outlook on Pride. As I [illegible] my fourth Atlanta Black Pride celeb[illegible] smile knowing that it almost didn't happen?

My first experience attending Black Pride Atlanta was filled with expectation. My friends and I arrived at Atlanta Hartsfield Airport with our fiercest outfits on and our sunglasses to match. The airport was filled with the children. When we arrived at the Embassy Suites Hotel, we were greeted by a sea of chocolate delights. What more could a twenty-four years old single gay black man want? As I learned on this journey, a lot more.

Our first night we ventured to the Sequel (now Club 708). It was a room filled to capacity with men. My friends had begun to disperse and hunt their prey, while I sat in awe. I had never seen these many black gay men in one place at the same time. I began to cruise the club, but no one spoke to me. In fact, everyone seemed to be in their own world. I had never felt so alone in my life. Why was I feeling this way? I ignored it. However, I felt the same every night at every club. When we were leaving Atlanta, I vowed to never return to another Black Pride event. I had a miserable time. I felt like I had just had a one night stand. I began to ask, is this it?

When I returned to Chicago, I began to realize that I had never liked meeting men at the club anyway. Why did I assume that traveling to Atlanta would change this? I began to read all of the pride information. I had failed to take advantage of so many other Pride events. I had relied solely on the club to fill all of my needs. My friends convinced me to give Atlanta Black Pride another try. Reluctantly, I agreed. However, like my girl Janet said, "This time I was going to do things my way."

I made a vow to attend at least one seminar and one non-club event on my second trip to Black Pride Atlanta. I am so grateful that I did. When I arrive at my first seminar, I was skeptical. My friends had filled my head with the belief that the only people that attended these seminars were lonely and preyed on the young. When I walked in, I was greeted by some of the friendliest faces I had ever seen at Pride. They actually spoke to me and I listened. These men and women were intelligent and insightful. They were active participants in the community. Many of them had families and a full life outside of the club. A life up until then I assumed did not exist. They became my shining examples that you can not allow this life to live you, but you must live it.

My friends thought I was insane. Why would I come all the way to Atlanta to sit in a room and learn? My response was, "Why would they come all the way to Atlanta to go to the same clubs and see the same

boys we have in Chicago? Now I am not one of those bitter girls who hate the club. Quite the opposite; however, let's not hate on those who want to experience more from Pride.

Reeling from this experience, I attended the Black Pride Marketplace. I was amazed at some of the things that people in our community were involved in. From art, literature, music, and community involvement, I met so many fascinating and nice people.

The same people that I had met early that afternoon were some of the faces that I passed by at the club that evening. And guess what happened this time? They spoke. In fact, attending these seminars and non-club events interwoven with the club only enhanced my Pride experience.

Now as I venture towards my fourth Atlanta Black Pride experience. I have even taken it one step further. I realized that many people felt the way I felt at Pride. Many of us are looking for alternative avenues to intermingle with the community at Black Pride. Now I am actively involved in creating other avenues for people to experience all that Atlanta Black Pride is and can be.

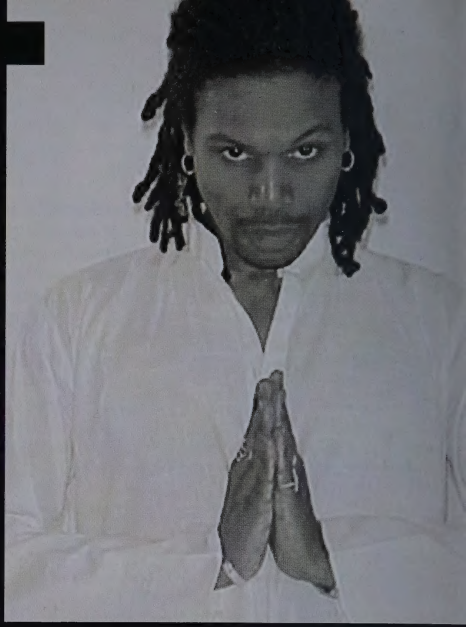
I am one of four incredible black men (James, J and Sean) who have co-founded, Together In Love, an organization committed to celebrating and championing the importance of African-American gay and lesbian relationships. This year we are proud to co-sponsor two events alongside In the Life Atlanta, Clikque Magazine, David Magazine and Southern Voices that will celebrate our couples. YES!!! My promotional company, I.M.G. Promotions, is also producing Peace Out South. An international G/L/B/T hip-hop concert which will be held Sunday, September 5th, at Phase One. This benefit concert will expose many of these pioneering G/L/B/T hip-hop artists to Atlanta for the first time.

As I conclude this article, I reflect on my own growth since my first Atlanta Black Pride. The pride that almost became my last. I realized that my experience at Pride only became better when I took it upon me, myself, and I to make it better. At this years Pride, if you felt the way I felt at my first Pride, I challenge you to step outside of the club at least for a moment and venture to one of these activities. I hope this will not only heighten your experience at Pride, but lead you to a better understanding of you and your community. Who knows? Maybe next year, I'll have the honor of attending one of your Atlanta Black Pride events? Stay true, and always do you. See you at Pride!

Russell D Hooks is co-creator of Together in Love. A social group committed to the celebration of African-American gay and lesbian relationships. He is also the President of I.M.G. Promotions. A company whose mission is to expand the voice of hip-hop to include the L/G/B/T community. He can be reached at russell.hooks@suntrust.com

Malik Williams, HIV Prevention Specialist - AID Atlanta

People often ask, "Why Black Gay Pride? Why be proud about just being who you are?" Too often, though, just being who I am is frowned upon, disparaged, attacked and maligned. Being who I am means having to listen to politicians, ministers, and various other unqualified commentators talk about how my "agenda" is threatening their way of life. Being who I am means explaining to my sistahs on a daily basis that HIV doesn't care about labels and identities. Being who I am means sometimes being an outsider in my own communities. Why Pride? Because being who I am takes more than just living, it takes courage. It takes commitment to truth. It takes a willingness to stand up, speak out, and fight oppression. And I believe integrity is something to be proud of. Why Pride? Living my life unapologetically – being who I am – is reason enough.



What Pride Means To Me

Photo by: Carlton Wilkinson, Art Works Photography, Nashville

Pride is one word that means so many different things to so many people. For me, it is an action word that means accepting who you are inside and letting it show without fear on the outside. It's not just a word that is synonymous with Gay/Same Gender Loving issues; it can range anywhere from culture, to ethnicity to style of dress or music. By living one's truth in all facets of your life including relationships, sexuality, heritage and culture, I think any person that visually reflects such an image is what having pride can mean to someone. - Dwayne Jenkins, Brothers United Network of Tennessee Inc., Nashville Black PRIDE.

Dwayne Jenkins, Brothers United Progra
Coordinator @ Nashville Cares

THE Chaparral

ATLANTA, GA

2715 Buford Highway
404.634.3737
18 to party-21 to drink

Each & Every Sunday

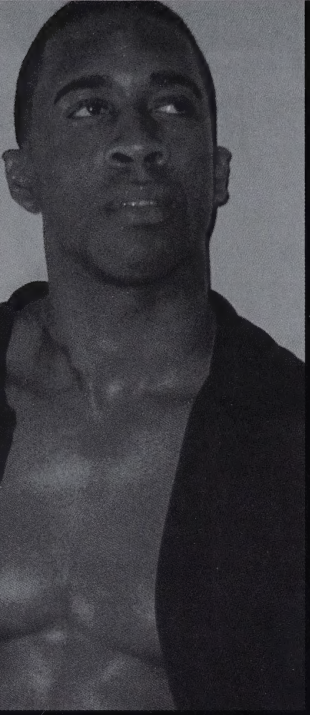
Still Partying Late

BLACK ATLANTA PRIDE

Male Strippers SUPER SHOW

The Place To Be This Labor Day Weekend
Reduced Admission Before Midnight
Super Male Revue Starts @ 11PM

SUN. SEPT 5TH



What Pride Means To Me

James Broussard, Prevention Case Manager YMSM

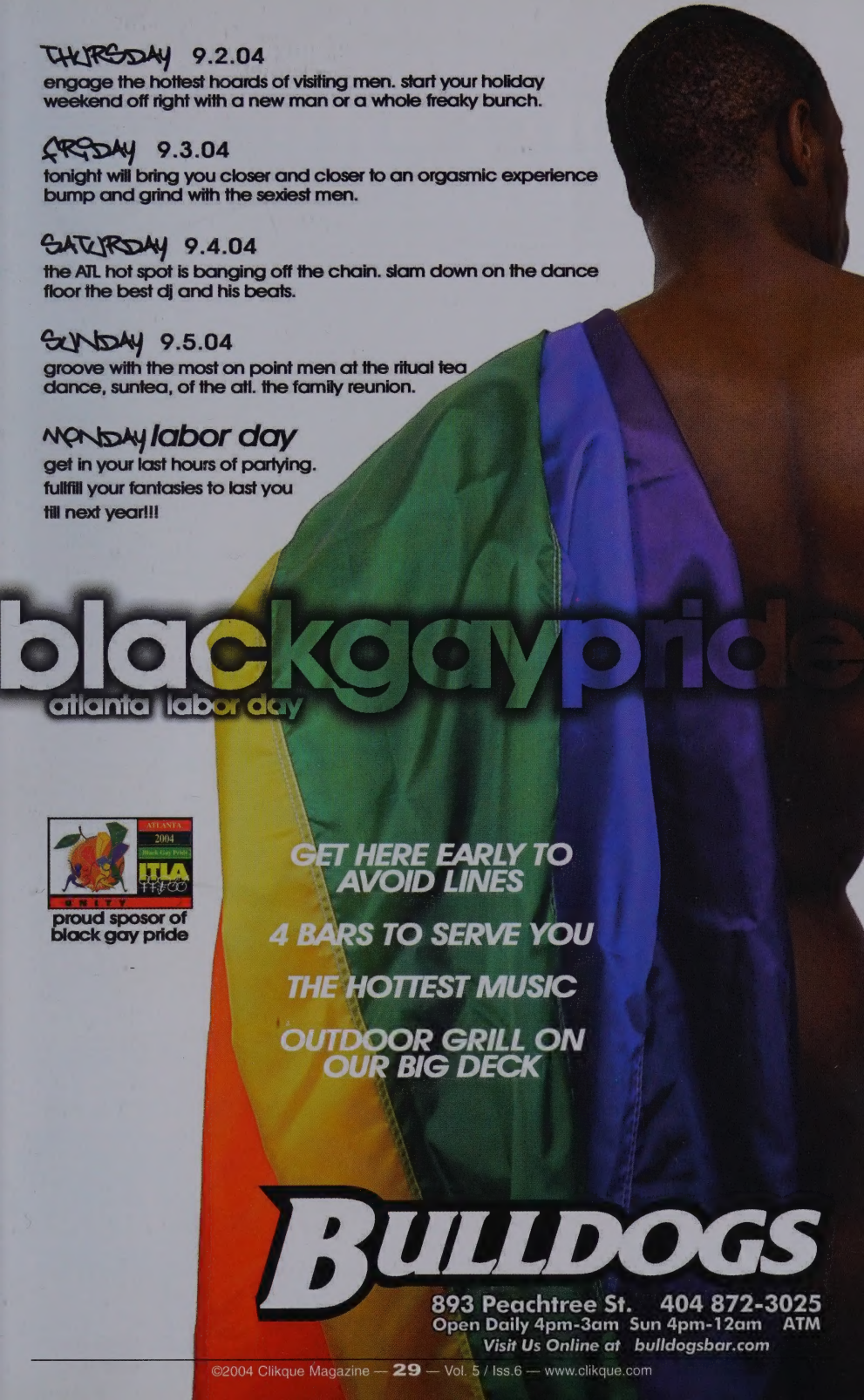
To me, Black Gay Pride means jumping on a plane with my good friends to Atlanta with the expectation of a No Holds Barred good time. I see a sea of diverse bruthas from all over the U.S. coming to one city, to one spot to let it all hang out. Martinis, margaritas, shots, and Coronas swallowed at the bar. Janet, Beyonce, Ludacris, Britney, Lil John, T.I., etc. screaming from a blazing sound system. And me, moving around the club in a tight pair of low rise jeans and some bad ass cowboy boots.

Kevin Bynes, Program Coordinator
For The Deeper Love Program @ - AID Atlanta

Very often I hear from white people who lack understanding that they do not see the need for a Black Gay Pride. Questions like "Why do they need their own pride?" surface constantly every year as we approach the pride festivities. So when asked to respond to the question "What Black Gay Pride means to me," I saw an opportunity to answer this question for the naysayers.

It has been suggested that Atlanta Pride should be for everyone. I tend to agree with this sentiment. I do have some questions, however, about who's job it is to make pride for everyone. I've many time heard this point raised as if it is the responsibility of Black folks to make this event for everyone as opposed to the responsibility of the Atlanta Pride Committee and that we should endure the feelings of alienation and otherness for the good of the whole. Pride should be for everyone, so ignore your needs and come celebrate with us.

Black Pride is my opportunity to be Black and Gay in multiple spaces for an entire weekend. Rarely do I get to be in a casual informal space that is both black and gay and be fulfilled. At Black Gay Pride, in that host hotel, I get to walk as my whole self into spaces. This is what Black Pride means to me.


THURSDAY 9.2.04
engage the hottest hoards of visiting men. start your holiday weekend off right with a new man or a whole freaky bunch.
FRIDAY 9.3.04
tonight will bring you closer and closer to an orgasmic experience bump and grind with the sexiest men.
SATURDAY 9.4.04
the ATL hot spot is banging off the chain. slam down on the dance floor the best dj and his beats.
SUNDAY 9.5.04
groove with the most on point men at the ritual tea dance, suntea, of the atl. the family reunion.
MONDAY labor day
get in your last hours of partying. fullfill your fantasies to last you till next year!!!
blackgaypride
atlanta labor day
ATLANTA 2004 Black Gay Pride
ITLA
proud sposor of black gay pride
GET HERE EARLY TO AVOID LINES
4 BARS TO SERVE YOU
THE HOTTEST MUSIC
OUTDOOR GRILL ON OUR BIG DECK
BULLDOGS
893 Peachtree St. 404 872-3025
Open Daily 4pm-3am Sun 4pm-12am ATM
Visit Us Online at bulldogsbar.com

In The Life Atlanta Candle Light Vigil 2004

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2004
7:00pm TO 10:00pm
STUDIO PLEX 659 AUBURN AVE.

ITLA CELEBRATES THE LIVES AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THOSE WHO PASSED FROM THIS EARTH. JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE WITH MUSIC, ART AND DANCE IN A JOYOUS REMEMBRANCE OF OUR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

ATLANTA 2004 Black Gay Pride ITLA UNITY

Sponsored in part by:
Dekalb County Board of Health and Mother's Voices

Atlanta's 2nd Annual Black Gay & Lesbian film festival

See Us In The Life

Showcasing films by and about same gender loving people of African descent

Presented by:

In The Life Atlanta, Inc.
In Collaboration with
àFRIsistahs & MoJAM Entertainment

September 2nd and 5th 2004

The Ski Trip – Maurice Jamal 80mins
Ski trip is a zany feature-length romantic comedy following the hijinks of a close group of 20-something gay friends

*Butch Mystique - Debra Wilson 35mins
Butch Mystique exposes the rules, thoughts, passions and concerns of African American butch-stud, identified lesbians.

Karmen Geï - Joseph Gaï Ramaka 82 mins
A retelling of the celebrated Carmen myth set in contemporary Senegal to African music and dance.

SEX, THE TALK - Wanda "Angel" Brown 3mins
This international documentary covers women in London, Johannesburg, Nigeria, Brazil and the USA about their true life stories and views on sexually transmitted diseases, the misconceptions of woman to woman safer sex and ways to bring up the safer sex conversation before being intimate.

Dakan - Mohamed Camara 87 minutes
Dakan is the first feature film on homosexuality from sub-Saharan Africa. It is the story of two men who by "coming out" disappear, become invisible to their families and society, because their society has no language, which recognizes their love.

Desperate in Love - Wanda "Angel" Brown 30mins
A Black Lesbian who's been out of the dating scene for quite some time; desperate for love, goes through all the drama that comes along with finding true love only to realize she need to love herself first.

If I Wuz Yo Gyrl - Coquie Hughes 75 min
An Experimental Work-In-Progress:
An urban drama about domestic violence between lesbiancouples

venues-TBA

for more information contact:
afrisistahs@bellsouth.net

ATLANTA 2004 Black Gay Pride ITLA UNITY

Atlanta Black Gay Pride 2004

Wednesday – September 1st, 2004
Clubs & Parties
Bulldogs - 893 Peachtree Street FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

WassupnATL Bowling Party – Location TBA

Thursday – September 2nd, 2004
Registration
12:00PM - 10:00PM Host Hotel - Sheraton Colony Square Passes available for pickup or purchase (if available)

Candlelight Vigil - FREE
7:00PM- 10:00PM @ Studioplex - 659 Auburn Ave Celebrate the lives of friends and family who have transitioned to the next journey in their lives. Sponsored in part by Dekalb County Board of Health

ÀFRIsistahs & Roots & Rhythm presents See Us In The Life Film Festival
PT 1 – Location TBA Screening starts at 7:00PM prompt
$15.00 at the door - 30% discount with VIP All Access Pass

Clubs & Parties
Bulldogs - 893 Peachtree FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

Affair with Flair's 70's & 80's Black Pride Kickoff party – 8:00pm until @ Leopard Lounge 84 12th Street - $5.00 - FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

San Juan Brothas Welcome Reception - 9:00pm to 12:00AM @ WETbar - 960 Spring Street - $5.00 – FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

WassupnATL Welcome to Atlanta Party @ Club Colours – FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

Friday – September 3rd, 2004
Registration
10:00AM - 10:00PM Host Hotel - Sheraton Colony Square

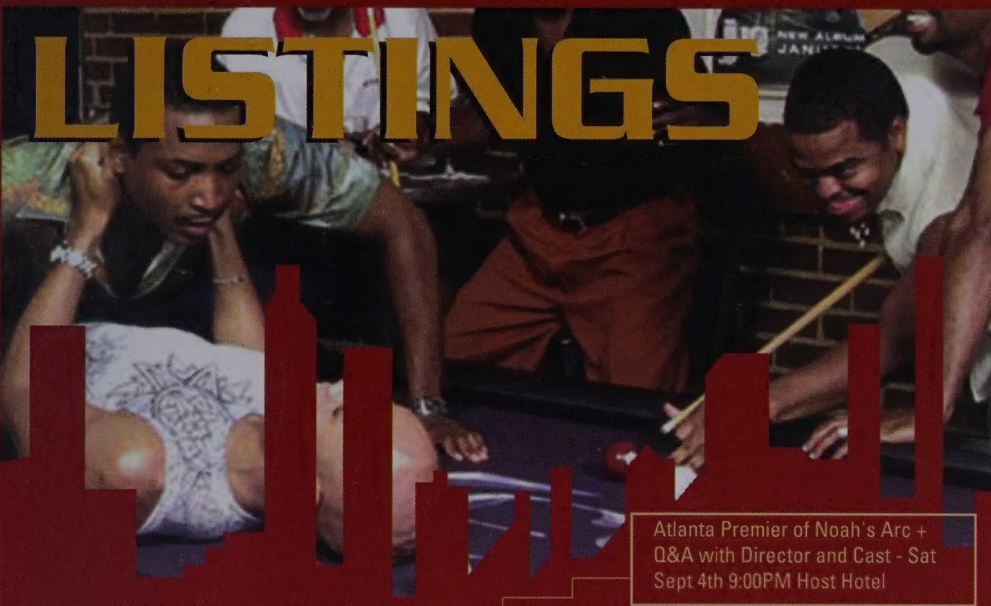
VIP Reception
6:30PM - 7:00PM Grand Ballroom North – FREE Hosted by Clikque Magazine, **this reception is for invited guests and media only.**

Meet & Greet - FREE
7:00PM - 7:30PM Grand Ballroom North – FREE Appetizers and Cash Bar, Meet your friends, neighbors, and fellow brothers and sisters in our pre kick off social.

Opening Reception - FREE
7:30PM - 9:30PM Grand Ballroom North
Welcome from ITLA Board of Directors and official kick of. Celebrate the start of the weekend with musical and performance artists for your entertainment. Cash Bar

Welcome Party
11:00PM - 4:00AM Crown Room (27th Floor) - Host Hotel - An Evening of Color – Featuring the sounds of DJ Cedric

LISTINGS



Atlanta Premier of Noah's Arc + Q&A with Director and Cast - Sat Sept 4th 9:00PM Host Hotel

Black Pride Marketplace - FREE
4:00PM - 11:00PM Grand Ballroom South - Host Hotel - Featuring local and national community retailers, organizations, and allies offering unique gifts, merchandise, and information tailored just for you.

SpeakFire! - An evening of Erotica (open Mic)
12:00AM - 3:00AM - Host Hotel
Share your most innermost desires, dreams, and realities in an evening of erotic spoken word performance art. $8.00 (Free with VIP All Access or UNITY Pass)

Clubs & Parties
Bulldogs - 893 Peachtree Street FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

Affair with Flair's "The Silk Party" The sexiest upscale dance party in Atlanta with R&B recording artist, DJ, Buffet, and Door Prizes - 10:00pm until @ Silk – 919 Peachtree St - $15.00 - FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

My Sister's Room - 222 East Howard Decatur
FREE with your VIP All Access Pass
Saturday September 4th, 2004

Registration & Information
10:00AM - 10:00PM Host Hotel
Passes available for pickup or purchase (if available)

Black Pride Marketplace - FREE
10:00AM - 10:00PM Georgia Ballroom South
Featuring local and national community retailers, organizations, and allies offering unique gifts, merchandise, and information tailored just for you.

Community Luncheon and Panel discussion
11:30AM - 2:00PM $25.00 (Free with All Access VIP, UNITY, and Conference passes)

Workshop Series (Day one)
2:00PM - 6:00PM – Host Hotel

Health and Wellness Fair
12:00PM - 4:00PM - Grand Ballroom North
Learn about the health issues unique to African American men and women. Free health screenings for diabetes, hypertension (high blood pressure), referrals for STD and HIV testing, nutrition information, mental health, and holistic medicine. This health fair is intended to cover the whole you, from top to bottom to help you live healthy and happy

WassupnATL Pool Party – 418 Armour Drive
4:00PM - 8:00PM – (Metro Inn Conference Center Pool – behind the hotel)
(FREE)

Poetry Slam
6:00PM – 9:00PM Host Hotel
$5.00 (Free with VIP All Access or UNITY Pass)
(spoken word artist must register at the registration desk any time prior to 3:30PM)

ZAMI Presents: A Feast Of Kings: Girls Do Boys
9:00PM - Grand Ballroom North
(ZAMI's hosts it 3rd Annual Drag King Show benefiting its Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund)

Atlanta Black Gay Pride 2004

EVENT LISTING

Couples' Meet/Greet Bash – Sponsored by Together In Love
7:00PM – 11:00PM – Host

Outdoor Activities – Piedmont Park
Spades Tournament – Sponsored by NetFlix – Park Pavilion
Volleyball Tournament – Location TBA 4:30pm to 7:30pm Dodge Ball Tournament – Location TBA 4:30pm to 7:30pm Tug-of-War – Location TBA – 4:30pm to 7:30pm

Clubs & Parties
Bulldogs - 893 Peachtree Street FREE with All Access Pass

WassupnATL True Pride Party @ Traxx – 339 Marietta St - 50% off with VIP All Access Pass

Affair with Flair's "Cherries & Berries" - R&B Recording artist, DJ, Buffet, and Door Prizes @ Cherry 1051 West Peachtree St. $15 or FREE with VIP All Access Pass

Sunday September 5th, 2004
Interfaith Worship Service - Free
11:00AM – 12:00PM - Host Hotel

Workshop Series (Continued)
2:00PM - 6:00PM
Black Pride Marketplace - Free
12:00PM - 6:00PM Georgia Ballroom South Featuring local and national community retailers, organizations, and allies offering unique gifts, merchandise, and information tailored just for you.

Literary Café
5:00PM - 7:00PM - Host Hotel
$5.00 Donation (Free with VIP All Access or UNITY Pass)

ÀFRIsistahs & Roots & Rhythm presents See Us In The Life Film Festival - PT 2 Location TBA
Doors open at 5:00pm Screening starts at 5:00 prompt
$15.00 at the door 30% discount with VIP All Access Pass

Newlywed Game – the Gay Version
6:00PM – Host Hotel - Hosted by Ms. Sophia McIntosh

The Famelee Affair Hip-Hop Concert
Presented by IMG Promotions
7:00pm – 10:30pm Location TBD
$5.00 (Free with VIP All Access Pass)

Outdoor Activities – Piedmont Park

Clubs & Parties
Bulldogs - 893 Peachtree St. FREE with your VIP All Access

My Sister's Room - 222 East Howard Decatur FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

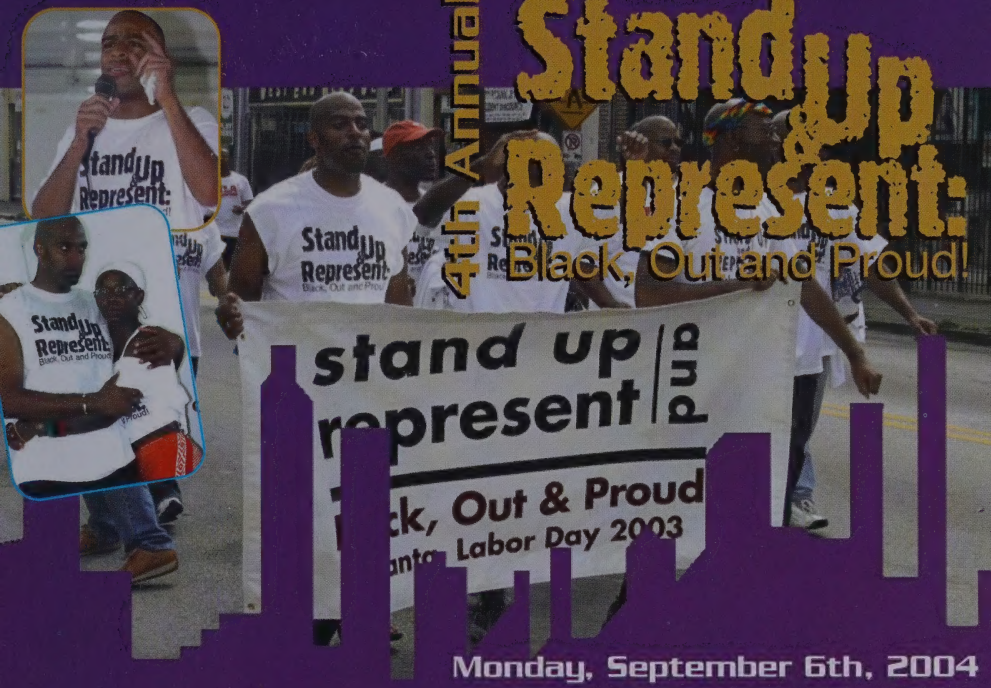
TRAXX - 339 Marietta St – 50% off with your VIP All Access Pass

Monday September 6th, 2004
3rd Annual Stand Up and Represent Black Gay Pride March and Rally
See www.inthelifeatl.com for assemble and step off times

3rd Annual Family Reunion Picnic – Piedmont Park- FREE
1:00PM - 5:00PM - Bring the kids, bring the parents, and bring the smiles as we celebrate the close of the Labor Day weekend as any extended family should!

Atlanta Black Gay Pride 2004 - Sponsors

AID ATLANTA
HORIZON
ATLANTA
Wyndham Hotels
David Atlanta Magazine
Affair With Flair
southern voice
Sheraton Colony Square
Elitegne Magazine



Join us as we make history while marching from the King Center through the historic Auburn Avenue area of Atlanta to the steps of the Georgia State Capitol. The Stand Up and Represent Black Gay Pride March returns to its original route, truly a celebration of our roots and growth.

Be a part of history and Stand Up and Represent!

Assemble: 10:00AM at The King Center 449 Auburn Ave. NE

Auburn Ave NE
Edgewood Ave SE
Decatur St SE
Atlanta
449 Auburn Ave NE, Atlanta, 449 Auburn Ave NE Atlanta, GA 30312
100 Washington St SW, Atlan... 100 Washington St SW Atlanta, GA 30303

ATLANTA 2004 Black Gay Pride ITIA UNITY

Pride on our side

After 11 years in the business, **TRAXX** Nightclub still remains one of the Nation's premiere entertainment spots for black gay men.

Humans have always been able to find a reason to party. Fortunately, because they are cutting edge, contemporary, yet classic, **Boone Management, Inc.**, has always managed to find a plethora of reasons to provide its patrons with an extraordinary time. Boone Management's festivities are dynamic and diverse expressions of what works. Boone Management, Inc., is a trendsetter which carries distinction in its hip pocket and as always will keep its audience captivated.

Boone Management, Inc., is a business of commitment, with over ten years of experience in the entertainment arena. They are one of the leaders of this industry and a major source of Atlanta's nightlife entertainment. According to CEO **Mr. Philip Boone**, they specialize in perfection and guarantee the delivery of incredible service. **Traxx Nightclub** was originally founded in 1985. During this era Traxx Nightclub, a.k.a. Boone Management, Inc., was known as **THE RITZBOYZ**. As The Ritzboyz, Boone Management, Inc., threw parties at various venues, clubs, and at home every Saturday Night. ***In fact, Home, Atlanta Overlook, Apt. K-11, is where the saga began.***

In 1989, the late **Mr. David Hampton** became the Manager of the **Phoenix** a.k.a. Traxx. When the Phoenix was closing its doors in 1993, Mr. Hampton and Mr. Boone ceased the opportunity to reopen the Phoenix as the **Legendary Traxx**.

Boone Management, Inc., was founded in Atlanta, GA in 1993, and is now one of, if not, the most popular gay African-American male production and promotion company in the

country. In 1984, Mr. Boone was the Room Service Manager for the Ritz Carlton. In 1986 he was the Banquet Captain for the Marriot Marquis. Of note is the extraordinary fact that Mr. Boone opened both establishments. Boone was the General Manager for Dante's Down The Hatch from 1986-1994. Mr. Phillip Boone, a Manager in Atlanta's thriving restaurant/hotel industry for over ten years, founded Boone Management, Inc. 11 years ago the doors to Traxx Nightclub opened offering customers a high energy, safe, and sexy environment for men who love to party with men.

Boone Management, Inc., prides itself on catering to every facet of the gay community. BMI provides a quality function and the fiercest music in the South.

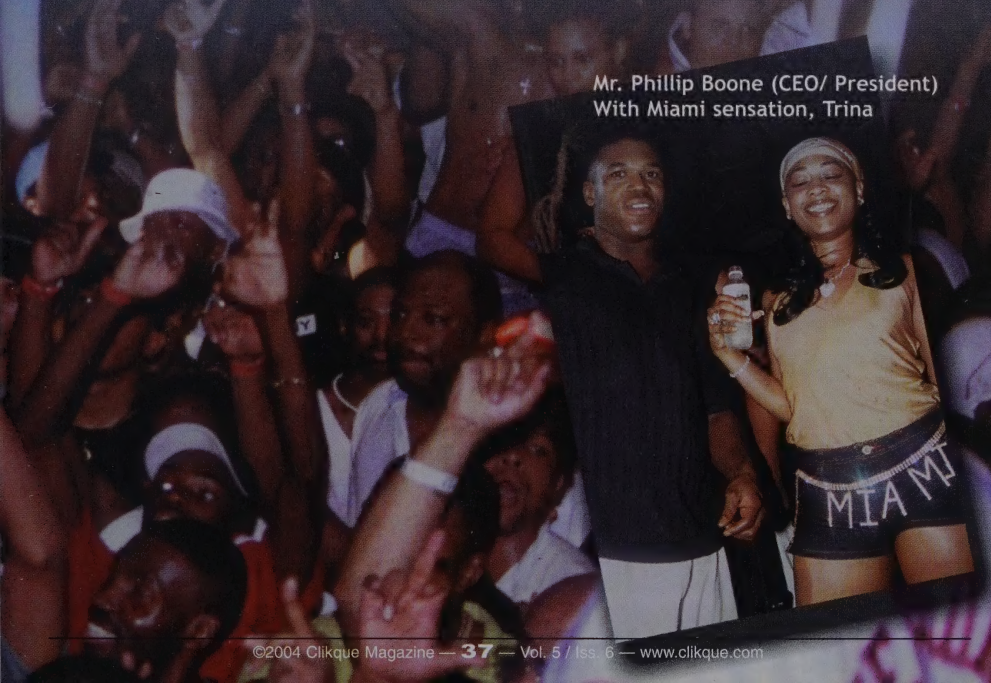
This company's pulsating vibes have electrified Atlanta, as well as party goers from the East to the West coast since 1993. **Foxy Brown, T.I., Crystal Waters, Biggie Smalls, Busta Rhymes, Nas, Total, Martha Wash, Tupac, Faith, Monica, Usher, Outkast, Keith Sweat, Da Brat, Mary J. Blige, Tribe Called Quest, Rakim, Kid Capri, and Biz Markie** are a few of the artist who have graced our stage with electrifying performances. Boone Management, Inc., (a.k.a. Traxx, Barcode, Warehouse, and the Ritzboyz) has stunned its listening and dancing audience over and over again.

Boone Management, Inc., not only prides itself on entertaining its community, but BMI also prides itself on educating, enlightening, and enhancing the community, by working with several organizations, such as: My Brother's Keeper, N.A.E.S.M., I.T.L.A., the AIDS Walk, most African-American Fraternities and Sororities, as well as many of the city's Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Mr. Boone is also a member of Atlanta Chamber of Commerce and the National Hotel/Restaurant Association.

Boone Management, Inc., is dedicated to entertaining and overwhelming its customers and will continue to do so in the future by hosting the hottest functions of the century. Catch Boone Management at work this Labor Day weekend in Atlanta GA at 306 Luckie St.

The dynamic Traxx team consists of
Mr. Phillip Boone (CEO/ President)
Mr. Homer Hammonds (General Mgr/P.R.)
Mr. Durand Robinson (Operations Manager)
Mr. Anthony Whitehead (Creative Director)
Mr. Gerald Thomas-"g" (Promotions/P.R.)



Mr. Phillip Boone (CEO/ President)
With Miami sensation, Trina

LABOR DAY '04 ~ TRAXX PRESENTS:

MERGE

"Bringing Men From Across The Nation Together"

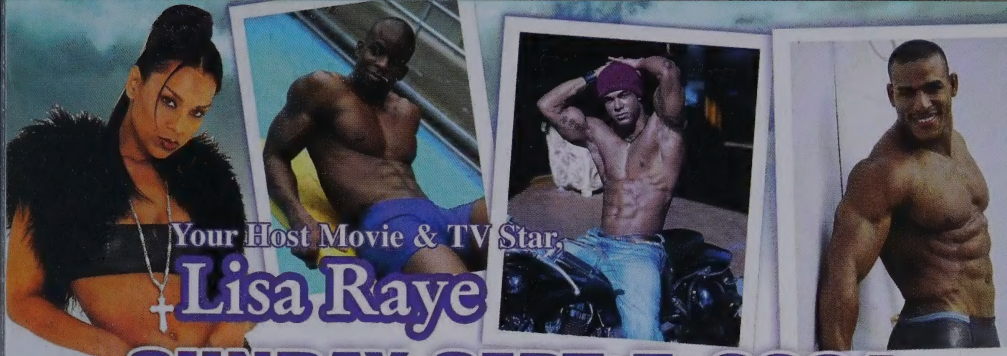
SATURDAY, SEPT. 4, 2004

TRAXX PRESENTS:

INTERGRATION

Join over 5,000 men partying to the hottest & hardest music, enveloped in a realm of temptation, seduced by the Nation's most alluring Go-Go Dancers and fueled by intoxicating drinks.

HIP-HOP MUSIC BY: HOT 107.9'S DJ TRUZ • DOORS OPEN @ 10PM



SUNDAY, SEPT. 5, 2004

TRAXX IN ASSOCIATION W/ N.A.E.S.M PRESENTS:

ALL OF US

TRAXX'S CELEBRATED POOL PARTY@ PIEDMONT PARK

Come get HOT, STICKY & WET with over 1,000 gorgeous men at the fiercest pool in HOTLANTA. Dive into the Olympic size pool. Be athletic at the tennis courts, baseball & soccer fields. Groove on the large dance floor to the hottest Hip-Hop music. GUARANTEED a Fabuous time rain or shine. Plus a Fabulous firework display.

OPEN BAR 3-4PM • FREE BAR-B-QUE • DOORS OPEN @ 2PM • PIEDMONT PARK

MONDAY, SEPT. 6, 2004

"MONDAY NIGHT WITH THE STARS OF THE CENTURY"

BLEND

Hosted by the witty, Dominique Rashad

Starring: Niesha Dupree, Raquel Lord, Stasha Sanchez, Jasmine Bonet, Necole Luv Dupree, Tamisha Iman, Archie Bonet, Monte St. James, R'Darius Black and a host of celebrity guests.

Limited Table Reservation.

Please contact Felicia @ 404.681.4422 after 3pm on Mon., Sept. 6th

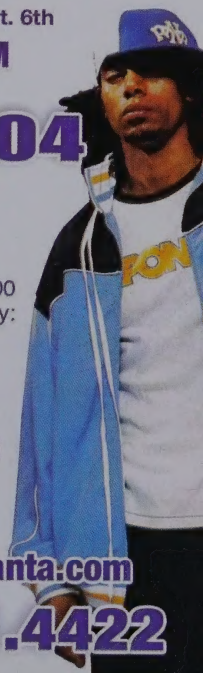
DOORS OPEN @ 10PM • SHOW STARTS @ 12AM

TUESDAY, SEPT. 7, 2004

"THE HIP-HOP PHENOMENON"

MIX

Don't miss the culminating party of the year! Join over 2,000 men partying until dawn to the hard hitting hip-hop beats by: **Hot 107.9's DJ Truz.**



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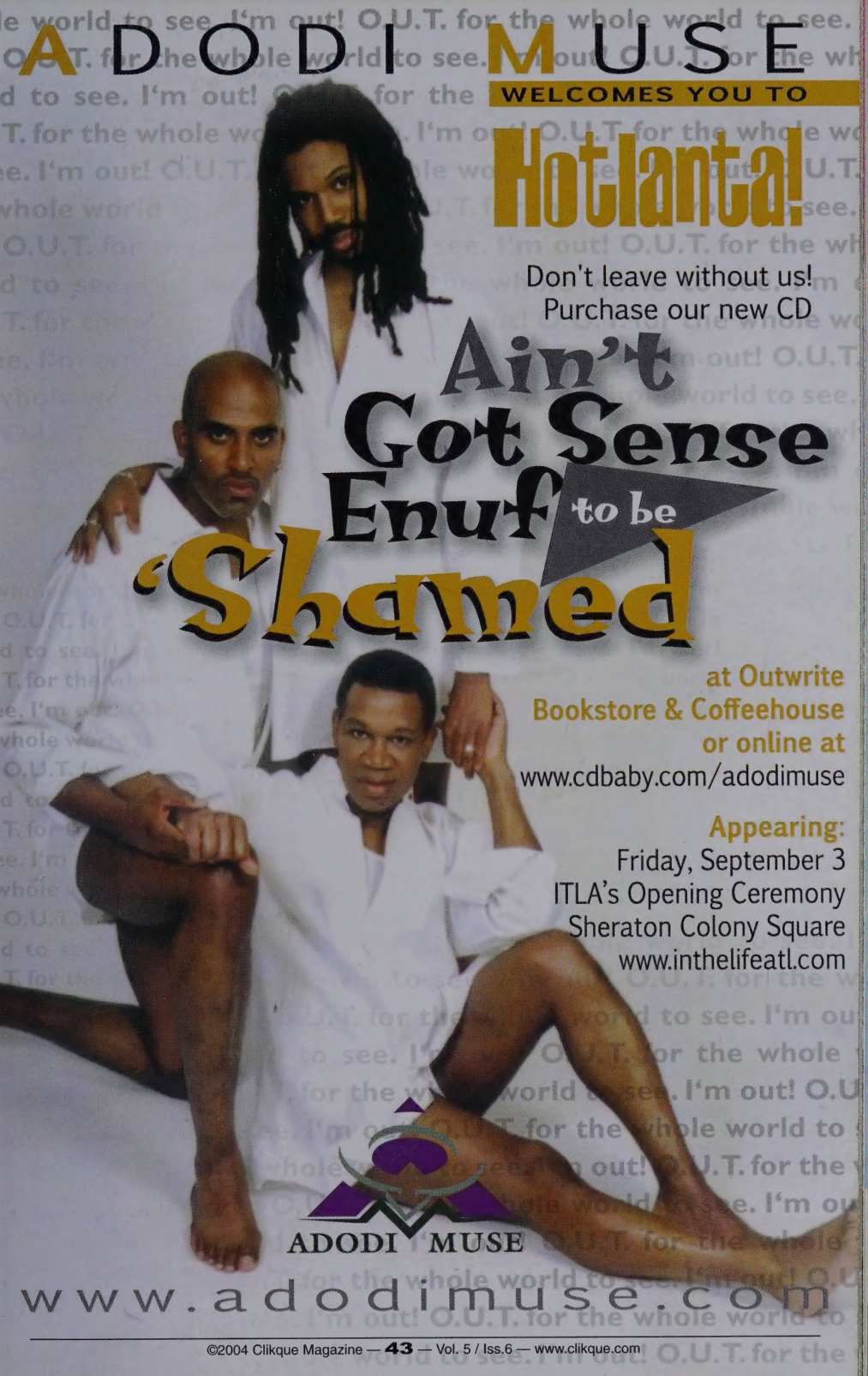
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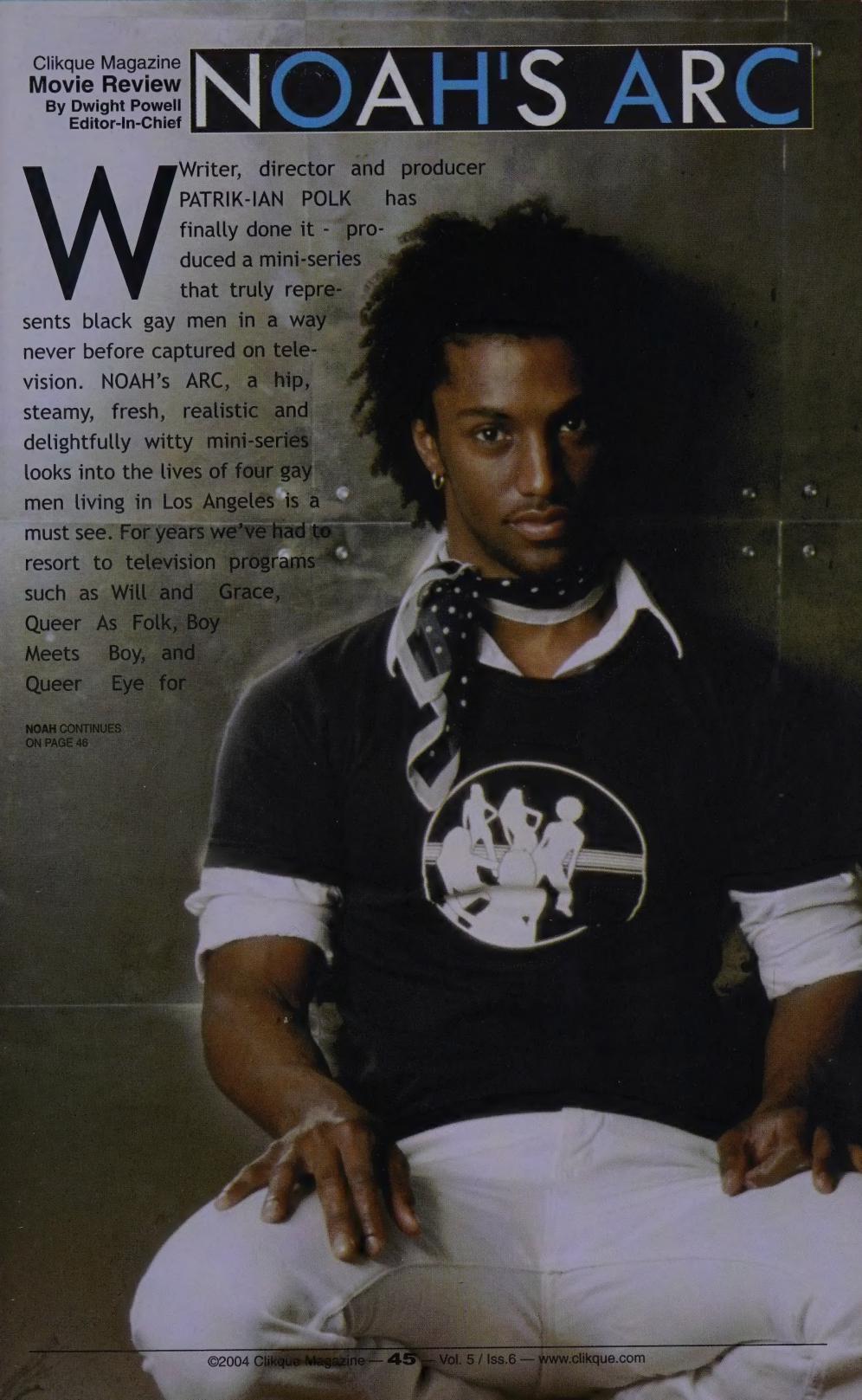
Clikque Magazine
Movie Review
By Dwight Powell
Editor-In-Chief

NOAH'S ARC

Writer, director and producer PATRIK-IAN POLK has finally done it - produced a mini-series that truly represents black gay men in a way never before captured on television. NOAH's ARC, a hip, steamy, fresh, realistic and delightfully witty mini-series looks into the lives of four gay men living in Los Angeles is a must see. For years we've had to resort to television programs such as Will and Grace, Queer As Folk, Boy Meets Boy, and Queer Eye for

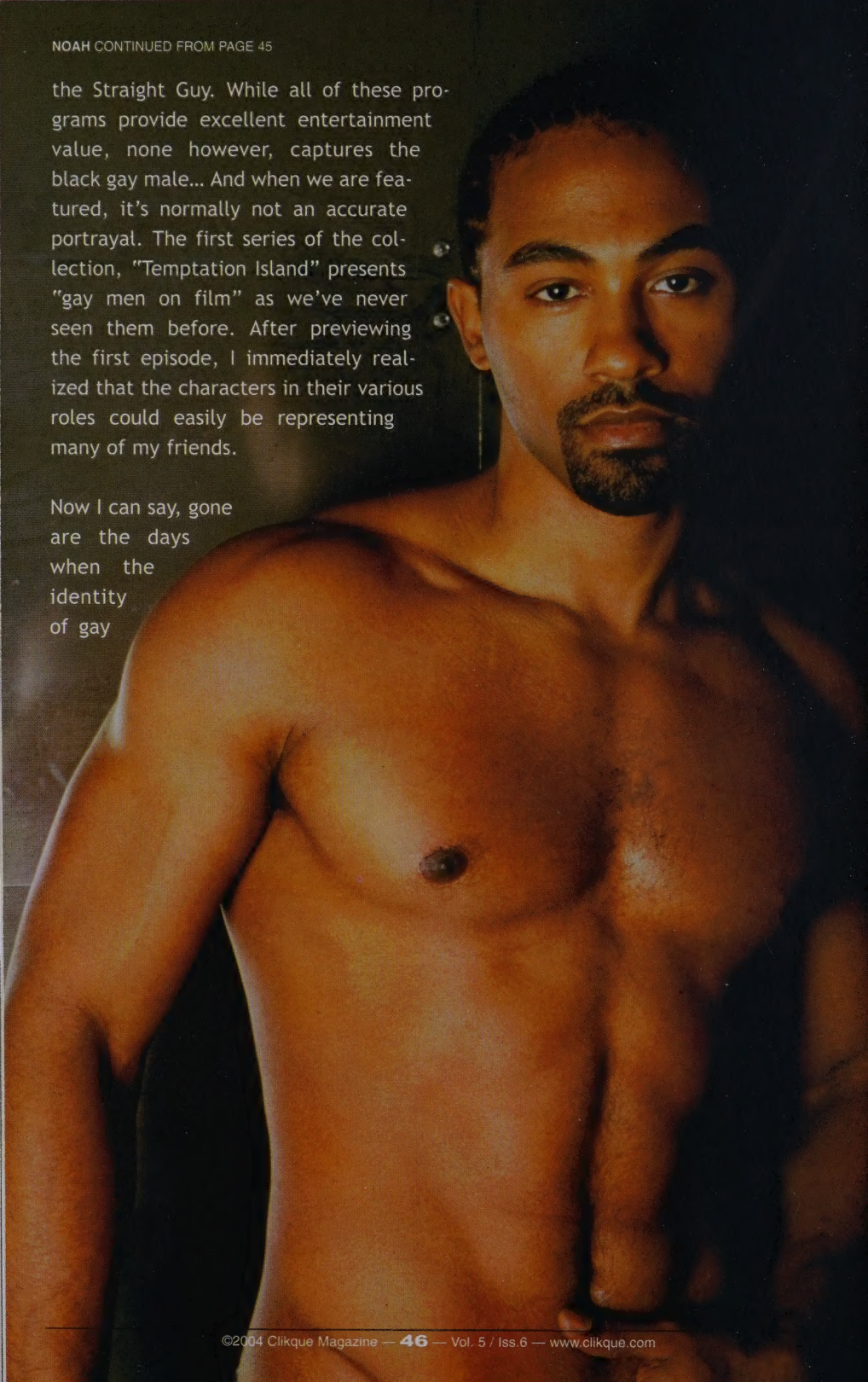
NOAH CONTINUES ON PAGE 46



NOAH CONTINUED FROM PAGE 45

the Straight Guy. While all of these programs provide excellent entertainment value, none however, captures the black gay male... And when we are featured, it's normally not an accurate portrayal. The first series of the collection, "Temptation Island" presents "gay men on film" as we've never seen them before. After previewing the first episode, I immediately realized that the characters in their various roles could easily be representing many of my friends.

Now I can say, gone are the days when the identity of gay



black men is imaged from those of white gay men on television. Polk, with this mini-series, is out to set the record straight that not all gay people are white. Described as Sex and the City meets Queer As Folk and together crashing into Soul Food, NOAH'S ARC provides a venue for gay black men to have a voice and for the first time, show the world the true faces of black gay men, whether they be gay, bi and or most importantly, on the down low. Although the first episode was heavy on sexuality, I am convinced and hopeful that the writers and producers will mix-in a lot of our day-to-day, ordinary experiences that's not framed around our sex lives.

NOAH's ARC is a hip, steamy, fresh, real and delightfully witty mini-series that's definitely a must see.
— *Dwight Powell*, Editor-In-Chief, Clikque Magazine

SYNOPSIS

Noah, Alex, Ricky and Chance are four friends living the gay life in Los Angeles. Noah (Darryl Stephens) is a struggling screenwriter embarking on a new love affair with newly out and much more successful screenwriter, Wade. HIV/AIDS counselor Alex (Rodney Chester) always keep it real with his clients but struggles to do the same with his anesthesiologist boyfriend, Trey (Gregory Keith). Ricky (Christian Vincent) owns a trendy and hip clothing store on Melrose and is the playboy of the group, while college professor Chance (Doug Spearman) has recently married and adopted his partner Eddie's (Jonathan Julian) three year old daughter after a world-wind courtship. Throw in Chance's amorous teaching assistant, Bryan (Johnny Smith), Ricky's hot, new store clerk, Dwayne (Nate Adams) and flamboyantly fabulous fashion designer Romeo (Dwen Curry) and you've got a recipe for delicious drama, side-splitting comedy and shocking sexuality.

Written By Daniel Vaillancourt

IS THREE A CROWD?

For four of the six years Robert and Dan have been together, they've slept with other men -- but neither has ever cheated on the other. The pair has an open relationship that works. "Never in those first couple of years could we ever imagine coming to this kind of agreement," admits Robert, 29, a restaurant manager in West Hollywood. "But we can't base a relationship -- for us -- on monogamy. If you love each other, sex on the side is just that -- sex."

Robert and Dan's situation is different from secretly having sex with other people, or having an unspoken understanding that occasional "cheating" is OK. Robert and Dan share an agreement that is largely based on communication and honesty.

"I think honesty is more important than anything," maintains Robert, who believes his relationship with Dan is healthier thanks to the guilt each avoids by refusing to be furtively adulterous. "I think we all have other attractions out there, so you might as well be honest and up-front about it."

Not that Robert thinks open relationships are for everybody. "My attitude is that whatever works for two people is the most important thing," he says. "People who criticize [open relationships] are usually the people who are dishonest and doing it behind each other's back, which is much more harmful."

What the 'Sexperts' Say

"Sexual tolerance and flexibility are some of the things that set gay men apart from straight ones," says New York City-based Daniel Wolfe, author of "Men Like Us: The GMHC Complete Guide to Gay Men's Sexual, Physical, and Emotional Well-Being." In some cases, he adds, that can mean successful, healthy, non-monogamy.

"With some exceptions, I believe sexually exclusive partnerships work best for most people," counters Betty Berzon, PhD, author of the bestselling "Permanent Partners," in her follow-up book, "The Intimacy Dance: A Guide to Long-Term Success in Gay and Lesbian Relationships." She writes: "There is a kind of affirmation that comes from being with a lover long-term, building a life, growing closer, and finding deeper levels of intimacy and new ways to please one another sexually."

Still, Berzon -- an L.A.-based activist and psychotherapist who has been counseling gay men, lesbians, and same-sex couples for decades -- understands that the above paradigm isn't suitable in all cases. "The key to making non-monogamy work, when it does," she writes, "seems to be mutually agreeing on the rules and sticking to them."

"Trouble comes when one person has a different understanding than the other about what's expected," adds Wolfe. "Try to be realistic about how much honesty is possible between you by seeing how you handle non-sexual matters. If you make up excuses or fudge on the details when you forget to bring home the dry cleaning, then it's probably not a good idea to foray into the confusing waters of non-monogamy," he says.

Making Up the Rules

"Our supposed rules are never the same person twice, no phone numbers, and discretion," reveals Robert, adding that the couple has a "don't ask, don't tell" policy concerning dalliances. "But I always ask because I always want to know. Sometimes Dan tells, but he never asks me."

The two most common rules governing open relationships are that safer sex precautions should always be taken, and that there be no emotional involvement. Here are a Top Ten list of other issues to consider:

1. Should our open relationship be "don't ask, don't tell," "say everything," or somewhere in between?
2. How intimate should outside sex be? Is mutual JO the only activity allowed? What about oral sex? Anal sex? Kissing?
3. What about three-ways? Nothing but? Never? Now and then?
4. Where can outside sex take place? Anywhere, or are recreational couplings only allowed in sex clubs, bathhouses, gym steam rooms and saunas, and rest rooms? What about in someone else's home or hotel room? In our home? In our bed?
5. Is making "sex dates" allowed, or can escapades only occur spontaneously?
6. What about overnights?
7. When is outside sex allowed? Any time, or just when one partner is out of town, on vacation, etc.? Is it OK for outside sex to interfere with planned or habitual "couple" time?
8. Is sex with mutual friends or acquaintances allowed?

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9. Is our relationship to be considered open until further discussion, or should we proceed on a case-by-case basis, discussing -- and permitting -- each "affair" to take place as opportunities present themselves?

10. How open will we be with family and friends about your open relationship?

Keep the Communication Flowing

"Once you do it, you can't go back," says Robert. Still, things happen, mistakes are made, needs change. Don't be afraid to revisit the issues -- and to reinvent the rules -- as needed.

"Every relationship that's alive requires renegotiating at times," warns Wolfe. "As for what happens when one of you falls harder than anticipated for someone else, or when something's not working, the solution returns to the bedrock of any successful coupling: daring to talk about it, and appreciating how "edgy" it can all feel. Remember, straight people provided us with lots of models for adultery, but few for genuine, open relationships.

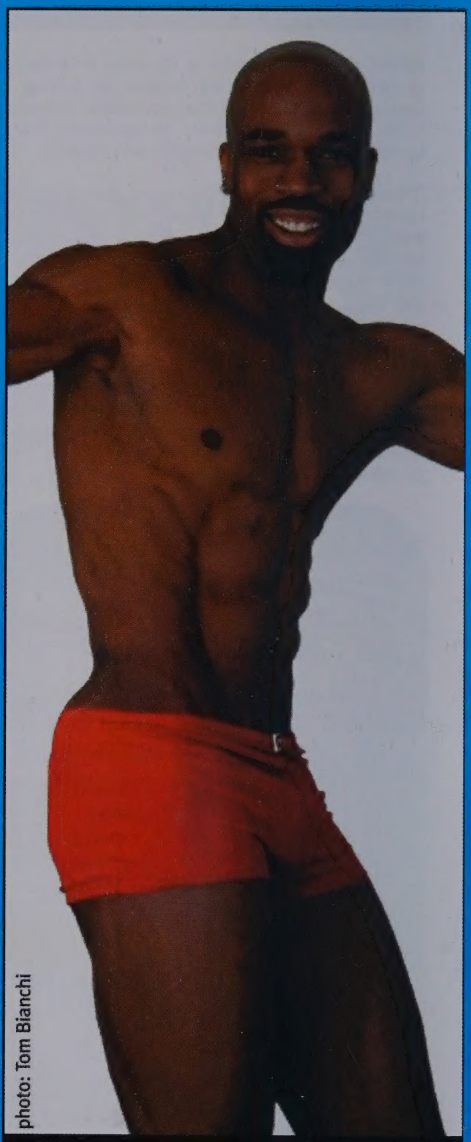
Remember Safer Sex

One of the many benefits of a monogamous relationship is the reduced risk of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). "The more partners you have, the higher your risk for STDs. While you may only have one fuck buddy, how many does your partner have," he says. That is why it is so important you practice safer sex.

If you think you might have an STD, you owe it to your partner and yourself to get treated immediately. Don't put off going to the doctor because you are too embarrassed or worried about what your partner will think. Remember, if you have unprotected sex with your primary partner and protected sex during outside encounters, you can still get an STD.

Web Discussion

Go To www.CLIKQUE.com and give us your opinion on the topic you just read. Select entries will be published in a future issue of Clikque Magazine



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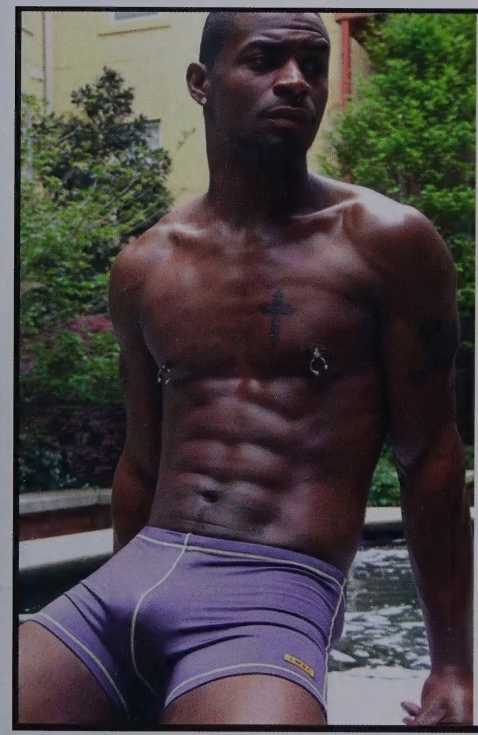

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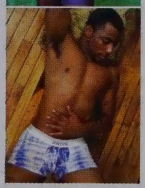
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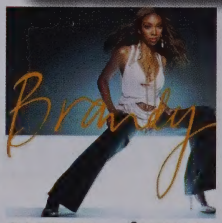

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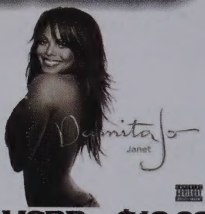

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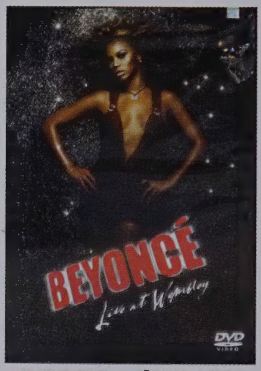

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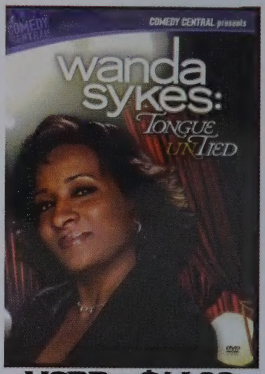

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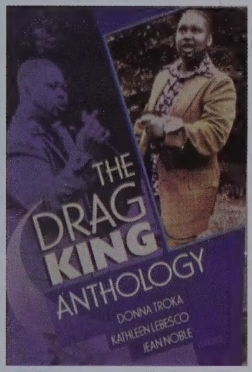

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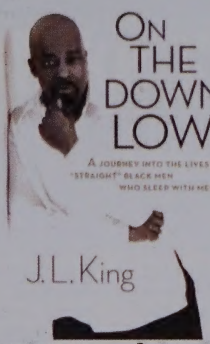

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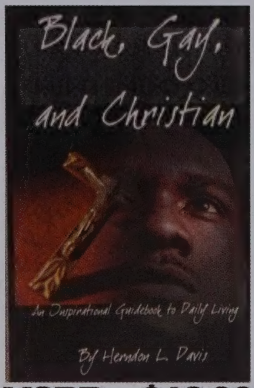

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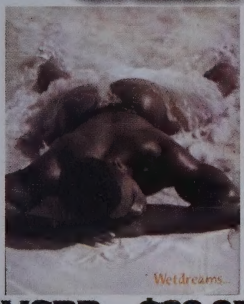

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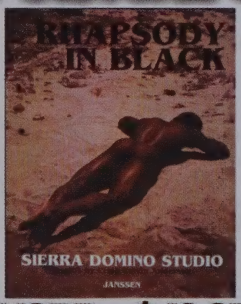

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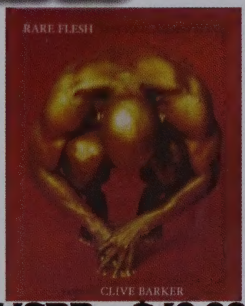

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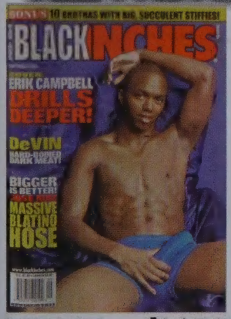

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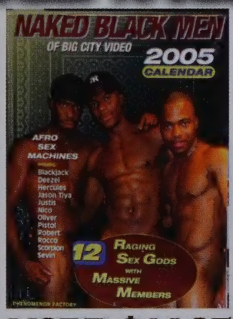

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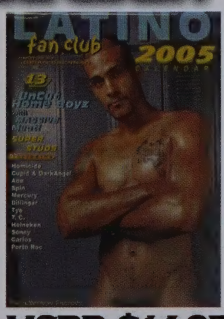

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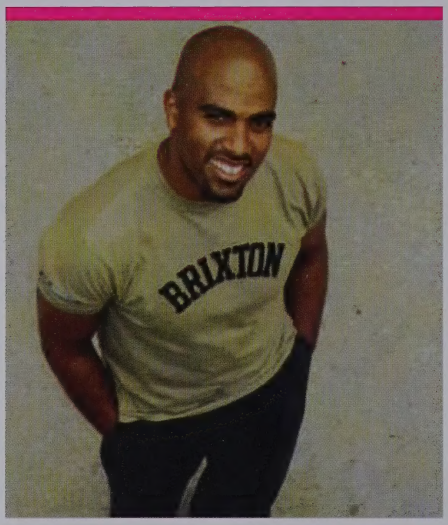
ASS REMIXED

AN INTERVIEW WITH ANTHONY ANTOINE

By Craig Washington

Anthony Antoine, who turned heads when he flipped pronouns with the openly gay themed "Dante's Got A Man", is back at it again with a sizzling late summer release, the delicious "Ass" single and remixes. "Ass" is a steamy tale about boy meets boy with greater booty that features some of the hottest pillow talk since Prince's "Do Me Baby." Standouts include a "Bottom or Top" remix laid on top of Missy's "Work It" and a bold Kellis remake "The Boy Milkshake Song". Anthony



Antoine sets new standards of hip hop realness by addressing love, lust and romance between men and up ending dominant attitudes about what it means to be a man. Bringing provocative lyrics, tight hip hop and house flavored hooks, and a range of delivery styles (sometimes intense, sometimes playful, always sexy), Anthony Antoine delivers the goods without compromising the music for the sake of the message.

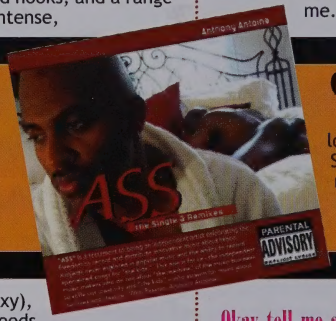
He has been either performing or producing music for over 15 years and has developed a distinctive vision and the chops to convey it. Back in the 80's the then seventeen year old moved to London where he played with Paul Hardcastle ("19") and garnered an international dance hit "Swing" with The Deff Boyz. He later released two singles including "Under Your Spell" with noted jazz artist Ronny Jordan and performed as an opening act for C&C Music Factory. Since his move to Atlanta in 1999, the Newark native achieved local celebrity status as an independent artist who also performs with Adodi Muse, the self described gay Negro ensemble. It was "Dante" (which received major play throughout the national club circuit) that distinguished Anthony Antoine as an original, one who stood apart from the rest of the hip hop/pop/r&b pack.

I lunched with the dangerously handsome performer to talk about his music and his message and as I anticipated he had a lot to say.

What moved you to do "Ass" (asked with a straight face)?
It's exactly what I wanted to say, I didn't filter it. It's unapologetic. A celebration of being an independent artist. Too often we don't hear our stories told over music.

One of my favorite cuts are "Don'tUEva", your response to hip hop homophobes. And "Curiosity and The Hennessy," you know you have to talk about that.
That was about giving something for the kids that love hip hop. Then hip hop is thought of as hard. As an openly gay artist, I wouldn't be expected to do that and have it carry. That I could create a song in that vein surprised me. "Curiosity and The Hennessy" is my favorite song I've ever written. It's about a man who keeps showing up at my door and says he's not gay. The excuse is the alcohol. "What's up with you and me is a secret I can keep. Call it whatever you please. It's okay with me. Blame the Hennessy"

MUSIC

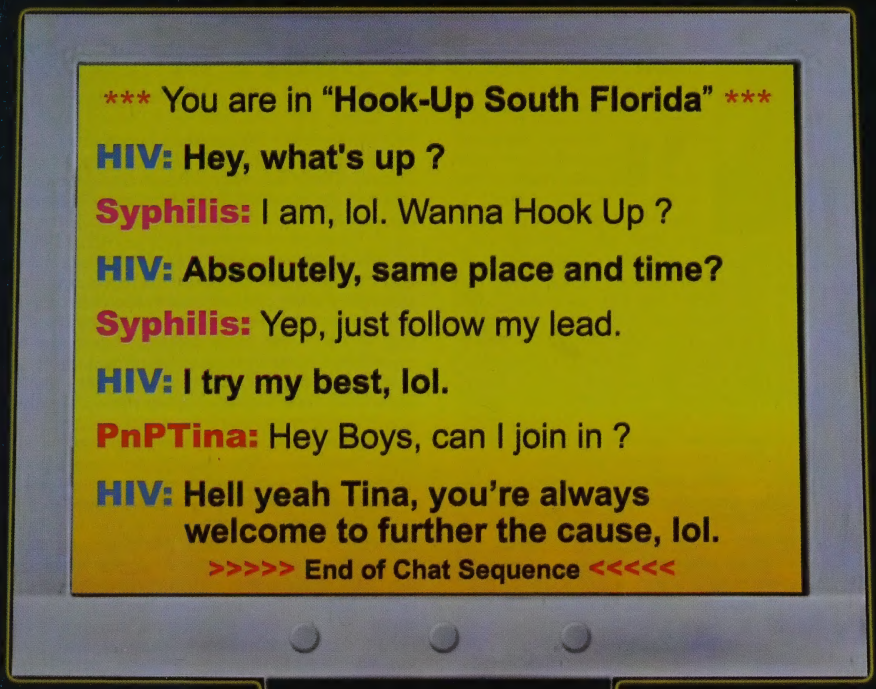


"Ass" is a steamy tale about boy meets boy with greater booty that features some of the hottest pillow talk since Prince's "Do Me Baby." Standouts include a "Bottom or Top" remix laid on top of Missy's "Work It" and a bold Kellis remake "The Boy Milkshake Song"

Okay tell me about "I Got The Moves" which features baby, baby daddy and baby mama.
Vogue was 11 when we recorded it. Dana is my baby mama and my best friend. Vogue my daughter

ANTHONY CONTINUES ON PAGE 57

How to Make the World a More POZitive Place


*** You are in "Hook-Up South Florida" ***
HIV: Hey, what's up ?
Syphilis: I am, lol. Wanna Hook Up ?
HIV: Absolutely, same place and time?
Syphilis: Yep, just follow my lead.
HIV: I try my best, lol.
PnPTina: Hey Boys, can I join in ?
HIV: Hell yeah Tina, you're always welcome to further the cause, lol.
>>>>> End of Chat Sequence <<<<<

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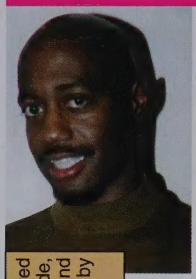
HEALTH

BROTHER TO BROTHER

Written By Craig Washington



"Who can love the perfect love, never short or thin?"

Nona Hendics

My earliest memory is a faded picture etched on the underside of my eyelids. I can only see it when I close my eyes and concentrate. Only then will the submerged image float up to the surface and sharpen. It is then I see him as always. His arm stretched just above my head. A giant door opens before me and I walk through. Then it fades out, like a 10 second clip from a fuzzy silent movie. No matter how many times I replay it, it always ends before we get outside. My brother and I. I only know for sure that we are going somewhere together and he is holding the door for me. I figure that I must have been small and very young because the handle is much taller than me.

Through hindsight, I can piece together where we may have been headed. The hallway outside of our one bedroom apartment opened out to Northern Boulevard, the main street of Corona, a small Queens neighborhood where I lived the first seven years of my life. Corona was a mix of blacks, Italians, Jews, and Puerto Ricans that at least tolerated each other well. It had been a haven for black musicians since the forties, and known as the place Louis Armstrong called home. Perhaps we were on our way to Mr. Walker's store to get as many sugar daddies and yankee doodles as we could for a dollar. Or maybe we were going to Tyson's barbershop where my brother recalls occasionally seeing a tall, bespectacled redbone man they called Malcolm. On the way, we might have said hello to Steve, a one-armed short sweet dark skinned man in his fifties with the open smile of a seven year old. We would have passed Stacey, our friend Lared's mother, a broom thin young woman with full beautiful lips who talked real fast and cussed all the time regardless of her mood or situation. "How ya'll doin?" she might say, cigarette dangling from her mocha painted bottom lip. "Y'all see that damn Lared? Tell him I'mo kick his ass when he get home. Alright , 'yall be good." It was a good time to grow up in Corona. There was very little on those streets that I feared because my brother always walked with me.

I trusted him fully and completely. So when I gave him my last nickel to go to the store and get me some devil dogs, I believed him when he came back telling me that a local gang roughed him and took that nickel. I was more shocked than angry when my mother came in from work asking who left the devil dog wrapper in front of the door. I somehow knew that I was his, that Kenny more than anyone was directly responsible for me. I used to wonder why he made me join the singing groups he would form even though I could not carry a tune. Sometimes he would berate me for not singing like Michael Jackson. We'd fight and I would quit only to return the next day straining to hit notes far beyond my reach. He was a gifted singer who certainly didn't need me there, as the other group members would tell him. But I was his brother and he would have it no other way. Years later he would stand up to my father during his first tirade about my homosexuality. For what seemed like a very long time, Kenny remained silent as I nervously awaited his response. And when Dad suggested that I see a psychiatrist in order to be cured, Kenny told him to get his own head examined for not accepting reality.
He was my first guardian.

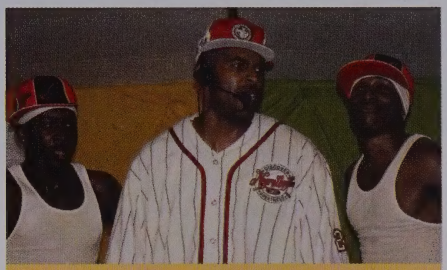
Over the years our growing differences stretched and pulled our relationship thin. As a young man, I grew to accept my sexuality and integrate that self-affirmation along with the cultural pride our parents had instilled in us both. I began writing and performing poetry that narrated my experiences and viewpoints as a gay-identified black man. Kenny married and attended his wife's church where he eventually got saved. He stopped singing secular music and started leading praise and worship choirs. Soon after I had moved to Atlanta with my partner, I noticed that he had stopped inquiring about my personal life. He would still talk about how he and his wife were doing but when I would bring up my relationship he would grow quiet or change the subject. Weeks before a planned holiday visit, he told me that he was uncomfortable with me bringing my partner because we were leading a sinful lifestyle. During another stay, he took me to their church where I sat through an encore repudiation of homosexuality. Although we later discussed how we each felt about these mat-

Mr. Washington was lovingly raised by Anna and Leon Washington in Queens, New York and has lived in Atlanta for 11 years. His writings have been published in Clikque, Venus, Arise, Washington Blade, Southern Voice, Atlanta Voice, Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He currently serves as the Volunteer and Training Coordinator for Positive Impact, which provides mental health services for people affected by HIV. He can be reached at cwash360@cs.com.

ters, a festering resentment had taken root. I called less frequently and only visited if our parents would be there for Thanksgiving or Christmas. I was genuinely happy to see him then as we would joke and talk about music or movies. But whenever a friend asked me about him, I would focus on the gaps and ignore the ties between us.

My mother sounded almost calm on the recorded message that informed me of his car accident. He suffered a concussion and was partially paralyzed for months. Watching him in the hospital bed, I was reminded of how easily we could have lost him. My anger toward him paled in the stark light of my brother's mortality. After he healed, our relationship has resumed its same old course, so thus had my resentment. But something had changed. (Joni Mitchell never lies.) It became difficult to harbor this hardness in my heart. I took notice of every time he neglected to ask about my personal life or my activist work. But then I would remember how he told me he loved me at the end of every phone call. One evening he called after seeing Earth, Wind & Fire on a pop documentary and within minutes we were immersed in an hour long reminiscence about the music of our youth. We were two middle-aged men harkening the golden age of R&B and praising the slim crop of "real" singers among today's artists. And so it wasn't until the next day that I realized he had not asked me any of those questions that I thought he should be asking me, that I thought he would ask if I were straight. But he did inquire about the novel that I am writing. And as always, his parting words were "love you, man".

Every now and then I want him to express more interest in different aspects of my life. I want him to ask about last month's Clikque article or my work at Positive Impact. I want him to do things that he probably will never do. But if I continue to obsess about what he cannot give, then I will miss that which he can and does give. And so it seems that I am still learning through my brother that which I did not learn from the boyfriends who tried to love me, whom I could not love as they were. A very wise woman once wrote, "Who can love the perfect love, never short or thin?" So many years later, and he is still in some way holding open doors for me. Kenny and I are brothers who share a colorful common history and have made indelible imprints on each other's sense of self. We might never have the kind of emotional intimacy that I enjoy with my closest friends. But we do have a bond that is exclusively ours and it is no less precious. Years ago, my mother told me that in order to prevent my brother from resenting me, during her pregnancy, they would tell him they would come back from the hospital with his baby. Visitors who came to see me were quickly instructed to ask him if they could hold "his" baby. I like to imagine him at 3 years old allowing adults to pick me up. It makes me feel protected and loved.



ANTHONY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 54

is clearly our child, a merge of Anthony and Dana. I'm a father. That's another aspect of me as a gay man. I'm still good friends with my baby mama even though she knows the truth about me.

Who is your audience?

My music is for the kids. Particularly black gay folks. Very few folks have had the opportunity to talk about being gay, sexuality, gay sex on a CD. Gay folks been changing pronouns in songs and applying them to their lives forever. I got emails from a brother in Montana that had gone to my website and heard my music. I didn't think there were black gay folks in Montana (laughs). I'm really pleased. The culmination is that.

How is it working with your producer?

Jimmy George of Wave Motion Sound recording studio. He's the same one that did "Dante's Got A Man." He restored my faith in heterosexual men. Here's a man who didn't know me, who regardless of what I brought to him, he's down. We work so well together. I love that it didn't matter that I wanted to do "gay music". It was good music to him, and he ran with it.

When did you start being openly gay in your music?

Going through coming out and getting comfortable with my sexuality, it made sense that I talk about it in my music. There's a saying that no one can do you like you. There's no one out doing Anthony Antoine. It really evolved as I became more involved in activism and HIV prevention.

Any Hobbies?

Sex, but that's performing too (laughs). No I spend a lot of time with my daughter. I love going to the movies and hanging with her and her friends. She's 13 with a cell phone. I'm a homebody. I love writing, watching good television, Will and Grace, Sex In The City. I love just chillin'.

What inspires you and what do you fear most?

I'm a very passionate person. People who are passionate inspire me. The kids who are passionate about HIV prevention. When they disclose their status, that's revolutionary. My greatest fear is that someone dies without fulfilling what they were supposed to do on the planet. I used to fear that my music wouldn't happen in the way I planned. I don't have that fear any more. You can't take my CDs away from me. They are done.

Want some more? Hit the website at www.anthonyantoine.com

ANGRY ALL THE TIME

Written By Scott Bogan
Clikque Magazine Senior Staff Writer

Since the last time that I have written a lot has taken place in my life. The friend that I wrote about in May passed away, I turned a year older in June, Dwight and his partner Louis showed me a fabulous time in South Beach, I attended a television pilot premier called Collegeland by Scotty Mullen that I really hope gets picked up by a network because it is very funny and smartly done. Lastly, I have returned to therapy only to discover that I am angry and my anger has taken a hold of me and doesn't seem to want to let go.

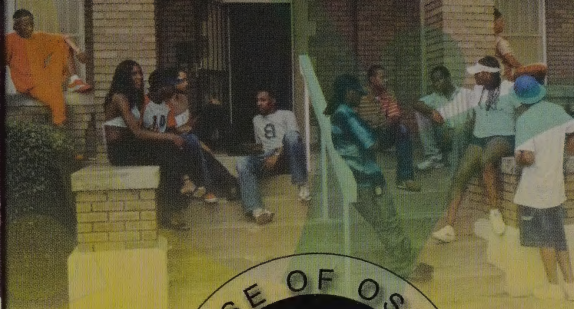
I initially returned to therapy because while at work one day I had a panic attack. I was sitting at my desk reading my email when all of a sudden my chest began to tighten and I could not catch my breath. I calmly got up and drove myself to the emergency room only to find out that I was having a panic attack. They gave me a sedative and sent me home. What was so confusing to me about this episode was that in the past when I have had panic attacks it was usually the result of me trying to control something that I had no way of controlling. For instance, the last really bad attack happened when I was in London and my flight home was delayed 7 hours and I really needed to get home. But this time there nothing that I was trying to control. Again, I was just sitting at my desk. What I have discovered through my sessions is that I am angry about so many things in the world, with my relationships, in my life in general and because I don't release the anger it has built up inside me and comes out the best way it can. This particular time it was in the form of a panic attack. When I think about it in retrospect, my anger has shown up at work, in my car, with my friends, even here in my articles. The slightest thing can/will piss me off to the tenth degree. While most people can casually dismiss it and move on, I get up on my soapbox and rant and rave and carry this anger around with me like some sort of fashion accessory. I even play out scenarios when I am alone. Reenacting situations that made me angry all over again. Never letting go. Anger is tricky though because it is not a real emotion. It is a mask for hurt or fear. And if I don't deal with the hurt or fear I can never get rid of the anger.

One of the several things that my therapist suggested that I do to release my anger is a journal. I have written in journals for years but this task was more specific.

I had to compile a list of everything that makes me angry. Here is some of my list:

- I am angry because I make poor decisions for my life.
- I am angry because everyone in the world seems selfish and inconsiderate.
- I am angry because even though everyone seems selfish and inconsiderate they are politically correct enough to make you think they aren't.
- I am angry because I try to be considerate and respectful of the world but I don't get the same back.
- I am angry because I want to be happy but cannot seem to be.
- I am angry because I cannot trust.
- I am angry because I have pushed a lot of good decent people away that I was afraid were going to hurt me.
- I am angry because my optimism about life and love is disappearing.
- I am angry because my parents are the smartest people that I know but they are so judgmental and hypocritical and they cannot see it.
- I am angry because I think that I am quickly becoming exactly like them.
- I am angry because there are things in my life that I want to do yet I feel stuck.
- I am angry because I go out on dates and think that we are having a good time and then I never hear from them again.
- I am angry because all of my friends are attractive, smart, incredible people yet most of them are single.
- I am angry because no matter how hard I keep trying to change, I don't think that I do.

This is just a sample of my list. The complete list is about 4 pages long and growing. This anger has a grip on me so tight that it is affecting my health. My blood pressure is elevated, at times I can't sleep and of course there are my panic attacks. I am trying to work through this but most of the time it seems so much bigger than me that I don't know that I can. All I can say right now is that I am trying to get through this. There is a song on Brandy's new album that sums up how I have been feeling lately. The words are, "Should anybody ask for me tell them I be right back in a real short time. It's just that I've lost my mind and I gotta find it. Once I hop on my train of thought I'll get back here pronto to collect myself. There's nothing you can do to help."



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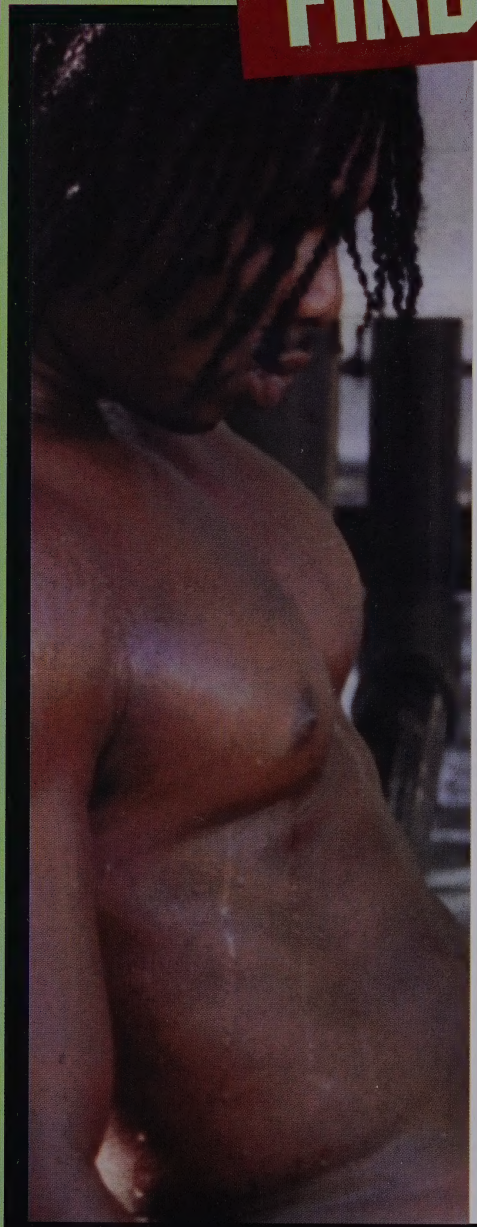


I'd been living in New York City for the past year jerking my life away. Literally: I must have slept with several hundred guys in the previous year, searching in each of them for some fulfillment, withdrawing into a world of 24 hour, instantly available, serial smut on the Web. I felt lonely and depressed and my doctor prescribed an anti-depressant in a well-intentioned attempt to medicate me out of my inertia. However, his best efforts failed -- dismally.

It was during this bout with depression that I became interested in receptive anal sex. Getting poked up the butt -- with anything, let alone a fully engorged, erect penis -- was never high on my list of things to do. But recently... I'd had a change of heart: like coleslaw or sushi, how do you know you don't like something unless you try it?

With this in mind, I made a date with Rick, a guy I met online and chatted with for over nine months before hooking up.

Rick is about as movie star gorgeous as any man I have ever known. There's something overwhelmingly persuasive about a man as attractive as him. It wasn't more than 15 minutes until we were in bed together and he was fucking me. Thinking back, I can't remember either of us ever mentioning condoms but I had told him ages ago that, "I [was] negative and I intend[ed] to stay that way".

Things progressed fairly rapidly from that point on -- we saw each other often, with escalating frequency. It wasn't long before sex dates had become traditional dates, incorporating walks in the park, dinners and sleep-overs. Nevertheless, even as romance blossomed, the primary focus was an incredible sexual attraction. We were irresistibly drawn to each other.

Losing myself in our connection, I indulged my fantasy of a devoted, loving relationship, one that embraces unsafe sex between HIV-negative partners as a physical manifestation of our intense emotional bond. I did NOT want to convert: I'm not a bug-chaser. But I had an erotic notion of semen in this context to the point that ingesting it -- the whole act of consuming and incorporating it -- became an irresistible impulse. And we acted on that impulse. The only

problem? We removed condoms from our equation before discussing HIV status or testing.

Instead of drawing us closer, it felt like our moment of unparalleled intimacy only drove us apart, as a dark cloud descended over our amorous tranquility. Suddenly, Rick wanted us both to test for HIV, "if we're going to do that kind of thing."

Which was fine by me, I suppose, as he had to be negative -- after all, I'd told him that I was and he'd been fucking me raw for weeks at this point. (I mean, he HAS to be negative, right?) I awaited the results with a familiar sense of undulating panic: of course I'm negative; oh my God, what about the time that...; everything's fine; dear Lord, I'm dying -- I can feel it growing inside me!

I got the all clear. Negative, undetectable viral load: the dream survives -- I think. Elated, I left word on Rick's cell phone, hoping he'd return my call shortly with equally wonderful news. And so I waited. And waited.

Finally, later in the afternoon, he rang to report his result. He was positive.

He sounded devastated as he told me that he'd spent the past few hours alone in a café, debating treatment options and pondering his fate, wracked with self- recriminations and doubt. I wanted to drop everything to be with him, but he wouldn't have it. He told me that I should leave him ("I'm no good for you"), that he'd kill himself if I were hurt (Oh my God, that's right: what about me?).

I went straight to my doctor to report Rick's test result. He crossed his eyes, breathed a deep sigh and advised me to immediately commence triple-combination Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP). However, he cautioned me that 10 days had past since Rick came inside me, well outside the 24-hour window within which PEP is believed to be effective.

I'm told the adverse side effects of HIV meds improve dramatically after the first four to six weeks. I wouldn't know, since PEP "only" lasts for one month -- an extremely expensive month if you don't have health insurance or you don't want your insurer to know about it. Within minutes of taking the first of so many hundreds of pills, every waking hour of that month was unbearably nightmarish. Apart from the chronic diarrhea and gassy bloating, my skin constantly felt like it was on fire and I was always exhausted.

Later that first night, tired and alone -- feeling abandoned in my misery -- I tried calling Rick to find out how he was coping and to update him on my news. But his phone was switched off and I was directed -- repeatedly -- straight to his voice-mail: "Call me -- please!" Waiting in vain by the phone, I crawled into bed that first Friday night and cried myself to sleep, trying to come to terms with my responsibility for my role in all of this.

It didn't help that my doctor was adamant that he speak with Rick's doctor immediately in order to better address my treatment -- something to do with geno-/phenotypes.

The following afternoon, Rick finally rang back -- "Oh my God, you sound so sad -- what's wrong?" (What's wrong?)

He assured me that everything was OK, he'd been meditating and had decided to come back to the city on Sunday -- he'd meet me at the pier dance (Gay Pride -- how intimate!). We ended up back together and I felt as if love would see us through this horror. We comforted each other as we settled into our respective drug regimens, gently trying to adjust to our new circumstances. Slowly the old rhythms returned and we resumed an approximation of our prior existence.

A few weeks later, I came across some of his medication bottles. The prescriptions had been filled a full week before we even tested, about the time he ejaculated inside me.

When I confronted him. He told me the truth. He'd known that he was positive for eight months. He just didn't know how to tell me. And he'd assumed that I had to be positive too if I let him fuck me raw -- and cum inside me. He didn't want to hurt anyone, least of all me, he said. He really did love me and was mortified by what he had done, he added. Would I ever forgive him?

I did, but things would never be the same again.

The lesson I learned is this: people, even good people, and those who say they love you, sometimes lie about really important things. Sometimes the lies are by omission and sometimes they're outright, bold-faced lies. And sometimes we even lie to ourselves.

When it comes to HIV-status and disclosure, by the time you finally get to the truth, you may have already put yourself or your loved ones at grave risk. Assumptions should never be made about the HIV status of your sexual partners. However dreamlike sex may feel, serious health risks and responsibilities accompany it.

ASK Bianca

Hey Ladies... and gentlemen,
Well, if you are reading this, it is hello gyrl. It is so nice to be back and what a beautiful summer this has been. Your girl has been enjoying the beach immensely and wishes this kind of weather would last forever. Last week, I wore my Chanel piece to the beach. The silver one with the white stripe going across the front and the boys followed me all over the shore. The gagger, was when I took them off and the men saw my newly designed voluptuousness. The beaches of North Miami will never be the same again.

Well, I am getting ready to go to Atlanta, to see some girlfriends of mine, compete in the Miss Liberty 2004 pageant, as well as catch some of the cuties on display at the Balenciaga/ Givenchy Ball. I have done enough nipping and tucking and Hotlanta will not be ready for me. Any hoo, this column is not about me. For real, it is about you lost souls who need my motherly advice despite the fact that I have no maternal instincts. So, before you start turning green with envy, here is this month's advice from the ever devastating, always beautiful bitch.
Miss Bianca Buchanan.

Dear Bianca,

I recently went to a nightclub as the guest of the bar-back and was told that he no longer works there. Here I was, in Prada and hot pink only to be told by some troll, at the door I would have to pay. I have not paid to go to a club in over 10 years and I am not about to start. So I clicked my heels twice and went back to my friends waiting to see if we were getting in for free. Should I be upset or am I over reacting? Plus the damn bar-back has not called me, to tell me he no longer works there. I am mad as hell, but more embarrassed than anything, because the girl who told me I had to pay, is a bitch I used to just swing by as I yell am on the list.
1st time off the list in New York

Dear 1st time off the list,
Wonders never cease. You were on the bar-backs guest list? Whatever happened to the DJ's guest list? When did bar-backs start having guest lists? My, how time has changed? I did some research and this is what I learned. A bar-back is usually a handsome, straight acting boy who services bartenders at the club. He normally has many friends who he sneaks into the back door but rarely is he given the use of a formal guest list. You were lucky your bar-boy had it good and had a list. My advice to you next time girl, is to aim higher. Try dating the door girl, or the owner or the DJ. They are more likely to keep their jobs and hence keep you on the list. As for the boy not calling, what makes you think he still has his metro. Maybe you should get a nose job or your teeth fixed and you will be on the A-list and wont need a bar-back to get you into any club. You stay stunned as I remain stunning.
Bianca

Dear Bianca,

I just found out that my boyfriend is not really my boyfriend, but that he is in a long term relationship with one of my co-workers over here at the exchange. I am quite annoyed and bothered because I was bragging to this bitch about how big my mans piece is, how good he uses it and the passion and positions we make love in. I went on to tell her something he really likes to do which is kinda weird and she said to me, "what is your man's name". I told her Alyn at which point she literally gagged. Then she said to me, "do you have a picture", and I went into my wallet. This bitch went into her purse and pulled out the same picture. When I woke up she was fanning me with her address book. Needless to say I left the man but she is still with him claiming the dick has been hers for years and never was mine. I am tempted to call him; cuz he had some real talent in the sack plus the dick is just like I like them, big. What should I do?
Angel in Miami

MAIL

Bianca is interested in helping you solve some of the greater mysteries of life. Write her at Clikque Magazine,
1001 North Federal HWY, Suite 365, Hallandale, FL 33009
Or email her C/O Clikque1@aol.com

Dear Angel in Hell.. I mean Miami. Sorry to hear about your tragedy because losing good dick is a travesty. My suggestion is that like a white chick you should throw a BF. That is a Bitch Fit. It is the most fetch thing to do these days. In your most Valley girl twang you call that girl and give her a piece of your mind. Then go over to her house and deliver the BF letter you wrote to her boyfriend. Go back home and wait for his call. If that does not work, in 24 hours throw another bitch fit. Go ahead, you throw a BF, as I remain beautiful.
Bianca

Dear Bianca,

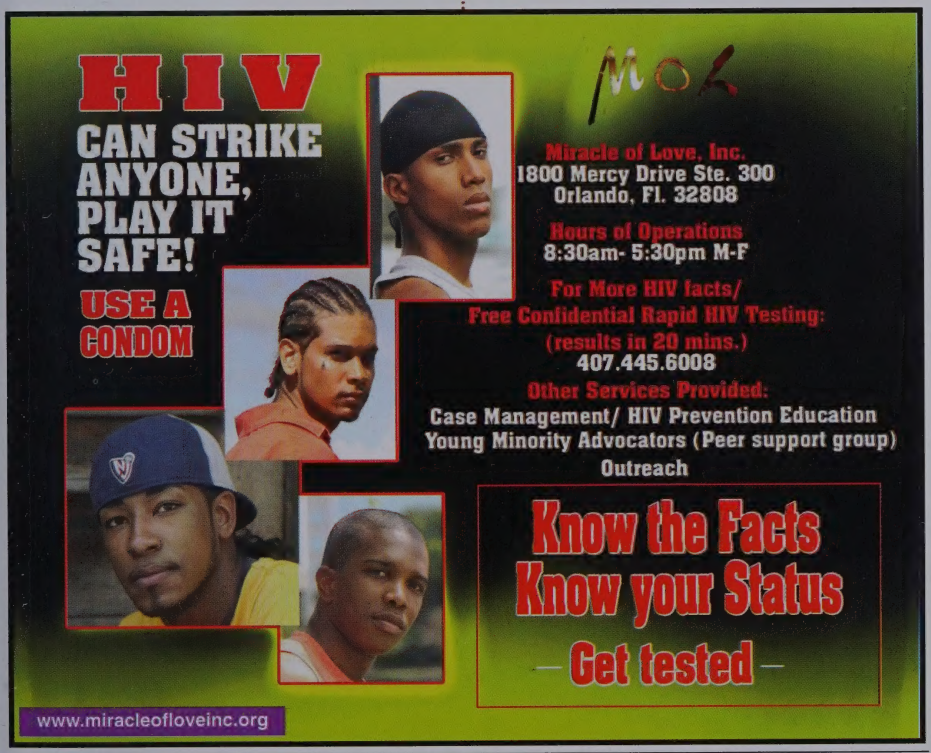
I met my boyfriend in early May. We started dating on May 23rd. He bought a house and wants me to move in with him on August 15th. Do you think it is too early for me to move in with him? I really love this man and the sex is incredible and gets better every time. Just when I think it can get no better than this he pulls another stunt. Should I move in with him or not?
Douglas, Atlanta GA

Dear Douglas,
According to the infamous they, it is too early to move in with him. They say, three months is way too short a time to know if you want to live together. However, my Judy Gretchen, says she went home with a man one night from The Sound Factory Bar (NYC), in 1994 and never went back home, but to get her stuff. That was 10 years ago and today that bitch is still driving that man's 335I BMW. She lies and says it is hers but I know better. All this to say, how soon you should move in is really up to the two of you.
Good luck girl.
Bianca

Dear Bianca,

Do you think I am cute enough to walk face at a ball? Unattached, but ready to grace the runway.

Dear Unattached,
The publisher of this rag said you were too facially challenged, for us to print your picture here. So that, is one vote against your walking face. Then I contacted the Muglers who said I must have been joking. The Balenciagas said, No mam, and even the sweet girls over at Givenchy said can she vogue?
My advice to you is to call Dr. Knott and set up an appointment for a rhino plasti, a jaw line rearrangement, a complete teeth makeover and then go see the skin people at The Dermatology Boutique. Then and only then should you attempt to walk face.
Until you heal, I remain the ever stunning, Bianca.



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NOBODY SHOWS YOU MIAMI LIKE WE DO!

on the SCENE

Scenes From Angel Infinity & DJ MIIK's

Get That Bitch II Mini Ball @ EXIT in Hollywood, Fl

Angel get a 10 for this FABULOUS Mini-Ball @ EXIT

Florida's butch realness as she welcomes SHAQ To Miami

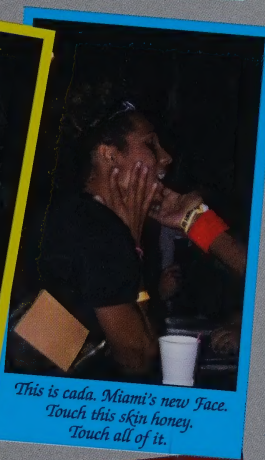
Serving Headwear at the Infiniti function.

The category was so hot we had to print this picture too.

I have the receipts somewhere, I don't know where, but I bought it!

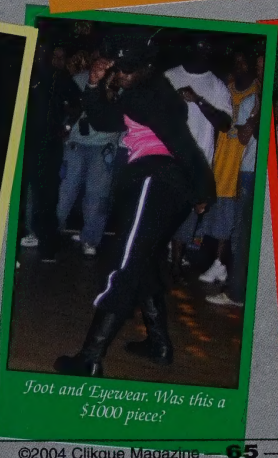
Clikque's Kennedy Davenport, laying it out for the kids.

No bags under my eyes, so all y'all who can't take me, just suffa.

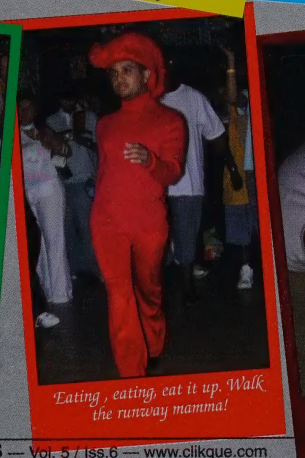


This is cada. Miami's new Face. Touch this skin honey. Touch all of it.

to a ball, snatch a trophy, ow everyone wants to know me.



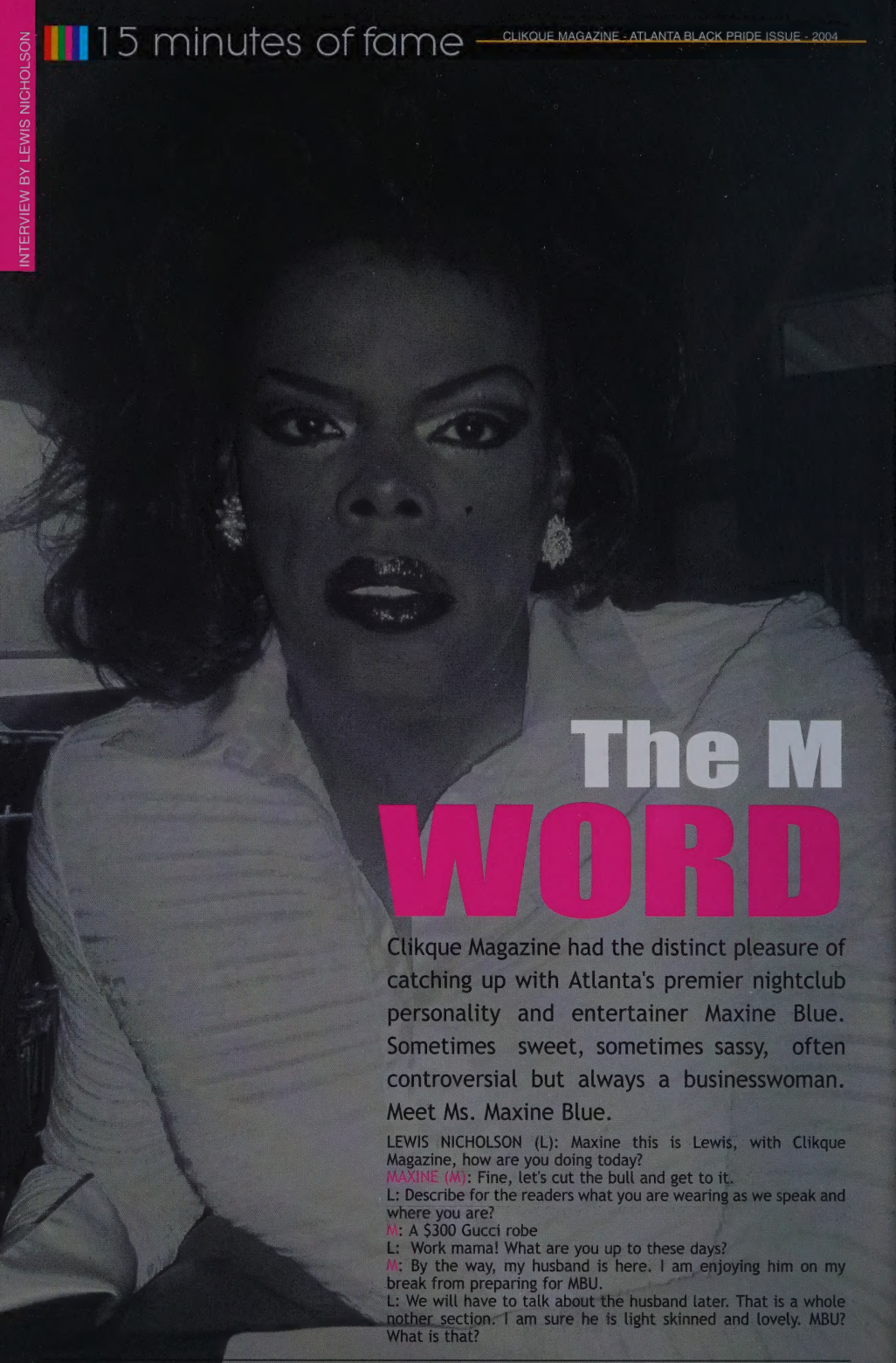
Foot and Eyewear. Was this a $1000 piece?



Eating , eating, eat it up. Walk the runway mamma!

3003, now strike that ovah pose for me.

INTERVIEW BY LEWIS NICHOLSON



The M WORD

Clikque Magazine had the distinct pleasure of catching up with Atlanta's premier nightclub personality and entertainer Maxine Blue. Sometimes sweet, sometimes sassy, often controversial but always a businesswoman. Meet Ms. Maxine Blue.

LEWIS NICHOLSON (L): Maxine this is Lewis, with Clikque Magazine, how are you doing today?
MAXINE (M): Fine, let's cut the bull and get to it.
L: Describe for the readers what you are wearing as we speak and where you are?
M: A $300 Gucci robe
L: Work mama! What are you up to these days?
M: By the way, my husband is here. I am enjoying him on my break from preparing for MBU.
L: We will have to talk about the husband later. That is a whole nother section. I am sure he is light skinned and lovely. MBU? What is that?

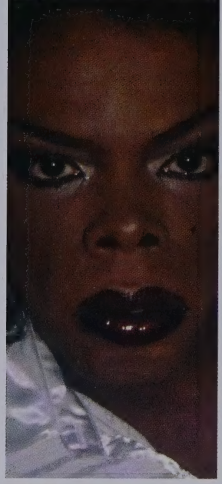
LADY MAXINE BLUE

ATLANTA'S # 1 MOVER & SHAKER

M: WELL YOU GOT THAT RIGHT about my light and lovely husband. MBU is Miss Black Universe.
L: No! Not Black Universe, you are going back to that?
M: That's right, the bitch is back, I figured, I do one more, so it will end where it all began.
L: You have to be kidding, do you think you can actually be the next Miss Black Universe?
M: I don't have time to kid, because time is money. Oh, I will be the next.
L: What will be different this time around than the last time you ran?
M: The teeth, the look, the brain, and the money. No longer am I a young girl that don't know shit.
L: The teeth? You got falsies, a whole plate or did you get the good shit?
M: Thanks to the fans, and the people, who go to the clubs, I got the good shit I mean implants some get tits, I got teeth.
L: You better work. Universe will not be ready for you if you get a gown to go along with the new look.
M:I am getting it from china, you know they don't play ova there.
L: They don't, but Maxine Blue has played with the kids before in some less than stellar gowns.
M: Well I guess we will just have to wait and see, wont we?
L: You have always had the talent, the Q& A, the walk, so now with the gown and new look, I feel sorry for the other girls who had their eyes on the prize.
M: Well, we all do our best, so it's whoever is hot that night, that's what a pageant is all about.
L: Yes it is. What is the difference between Maxine Blue of the Bachelors Mill as opposed to Maxine Blue of Atlanta, GA?
M: There's nothing different, I have not changed, as others do, except I now have fewer real friends.
L: Before we get off the subject of pageantry, a friend of mine asked me to find out how you really felt about the year, I think it was 1999, when you won Interview, Presentation and Q & A at Miss Liberty but was named 4th runner - up?
M: By not winning there were no expectations put on me, so it was fine, however, I won't be competing in that system anymore. I wish them the best of luck.
L: why wouldn't you do Liberty again? But Universe?
M: I don't think I'm what they are looking for, SOME ONE WHO IS DRIVEN TO REACH THE TOP and Liberty does not want that? I think MBU can help me, and I can help them. It's a business you know. I m sure they do but, as always they under- estimated Maxine, She's a winner.
L: Is it true that you got your start at a fashion show in Pyontek, Korea, while serving in the armed forces?
M: No it's not true, I got my start when I was ten in MILWAUKEE.
L: Ten huh? Do tell us about that?
M: You see, my father was very strict, so my mother always told us to pay him no attention, and to go for the gold. No matter what happened, she would say at least you tried.
L: Mom sounds like a wise woman. So what was your first experience on a stage like?
M: A queen must spread her wings and fly.
L: Were you aware that you were going to be a star when you burned the runway in Korea?
M: It was a mess, I fell on the runway, everyone laughed but then I knew what my true calling was; COMEDY. Oh yes, Rodney and me were the queens of the post. Mother Nature and Mother Superior, guess which one I was.
L: You had to be superior.
M: You got it.
L: Rodney ... well I can't put Rodney's business out there like that, but you had to be Superior. Now that you are pretty much at the top how has your life changed.
M: Well my dad came to see my show at The Metro, and told me he was proud of me and you know what? That was the best thing I ever got or heard from anyone. And by the way, I don't think I am at the top yet. I'm still living from paycheck to pay check.
L: Must be a lot of living you are doing, for it to be paycheck to paycheck. Your dad saw you in drag? That is comforting? What made you decide to go into promotions.
M: I had no choice, Jerry from Colours fired me because he wanted to control me, so it was go into promotions or go home. (I mean back to DC).
L: What has been your most rewarding experience as a promoter?
M: Being able to help those who have helped me.
L: What do you think is responsible for your success and is there anyone in the business you admire or look up to?
M: Hard work. The people are as follows
TIM JONES, NIESHA, DOMINIQUE, TRAVIS AND ROME
However now I have a whole new group of people. The young kids of Atlanta. Eric, Steve, Alley Cat and Sherry
L: Alley Cat? lol
M: My gay child, she is the current Miss Bachelor's Mill and always by my side.
L: When you decide to do a party, how do you know

MAXINE CONTINUES ON PAGE 68

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 67



whether or not people are going to support it?
M: I don't, I just keep trying and hopefully if you build it they will come
M: Oh yeah I cant forget my Latin kids, they got me through some really hard times. Thanks Alex and Alexis.
L: Which of your promotion ventures are you most proud of?
M: My Latin night at the chaparral, they come every week and don't judge, or get jealous, they just support.
L: How does that make you feel that it is not your own that has supported you most?
M: They support too, but you know how we are.
L: How do you think we can change that in the black gay community?
M: It's been inbred from slavery, it was the only way to keep us down, divide and concur. I think we can change it by voting.
L: Speaking of voting, you were voted off at Traxx American Idol style, did they ever let you back into Traxx?
M: Oh yeah, they finally figured out I wasn't the problem, you see if they would have given me a job, I would be helping them.
L: Is it true that Atlanta has changed and that Traxx is no longer the club to be at?
M: I guess that is a matter of choice, if you want to support gay people you go to Traxx, if you want to support straight people, you go to the other place on Spring street. I go to traxx on Monday, to support the girls.
L: What is your relationship like with the folks over at 708?
M: For me personally its good, however I hear its bad for others.
L: Others like whom?
M: Well they use to let employees from all clubs get in free, however since the new folks have taken over, they no longer look out for the lowly employees of other clubs, only the big bosses (THANK GOD I'M ONE OF THE BIG BOSSES. See that's what I mean when I say slave mentality, and not taking care of one another.
L: I heard you were once the man being grabbed on, by a wife who went by the name of Mrs. Phillip. How true is that?
M: What? Please explain
L: The rumor mill has it, that you were once married to a real woman.
M: Yes I was, but I met a truck driver and the rest is history.
L: Do you have any kids and if so which on is your favorite?
M: I have about 15, Alley Cat is the favorite, then Miss Anthony.
L: Whatever happened to the Cancun Canteen?
M: Well Dominique and Mario are here and we are taking care of some things so we will have to continue this later. By the way thanks for sending that fine Eli to take my picture I think he is hot. I will call you back in about and hour when we get done
L: On more thing before you go. What is your given name and where did Maxine Blue come from?
M: My given name is Philip Fairchild. Maxine comes from En Vogue, and the last name comes from Bijion Blue my first husband
L: Really Bijon Blue? I never would have guessed! Thanks for chatting with me and have a great day.

With that Maxine ran off to take care of business. As you can see, Maxine Blue is a multifaceted businesswoman and entertainer currently residing in Atlanta. She is sharp and witty, with an acidic tongue, but those who know her, say to really know her is to love her.

CLIKASCOPE

GETTING YOUR MONTH OFF TO A GREAT START

ARIES

The world may have done you wrong over the last year or so, but they are ready to right those wrongs. Open your arms and allow them to. Hold your hands out and receive. This month wear a hairdo on which the tiara will fit nicely as someone is ready to declare you queen. And the winner is.... You girl!

TAURUS

Normally you are a very strong willed girl, but lately you have been slacking off. Gain some control of your life and resume being the dynamic spectacle that you once were. You are a goddess so sit back and let the kids worship. Yes girl, you are so absolutely fetch.

GEMINI

The evil twin is on the lurk. Slap that bitch twice so that she will go back into hiding. Let the good sister out and all the positive things in life that you desire will be yours. Lately you have been feeling like you made some bad choices but have no fear. Everything is about to fall into place just the way you want it.

CANCER

Sugar listen, You are smart, talented and funny and even straight folks think you are way cool. Not that you really care what they think anyway. Now that the depression is over it is time for you to start making amends. Do something special for your friends , like throw them a big welcome back to your world party. Your friends never stopped thinking of you as a star so go ahead and start acting like the diva you have always been.

LEO

Good golly miss molly. You are embarking upon new adventures all of which are bound to take you places. Making money and finding love is a primary goal of yours and I am pleased to say that both are on the way. Your new love interest is the one for you. He/she is ready and willing to give you all the love and attention you deserve. Hold your head up as life could actually be worse. This summer enjoy every moment as if it was your last.

VIRGO

Finally, the project you started a long long time ago is almost done. The sense of accomplishment you will feel once it is over will make you extremely happy. Stop procrastinating and get it over with. You have other fish to fry and you could be on the horizons of becoming a major force to reckon with in your field. You have a heart of gold but you can be a tad bit controlling at times. Lighten up and live.

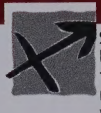
LIBRA

You take the good , you take the bad, you take them both at once you are taking a Libra. You are a bag of conflicting ammunition. Explosive yet calm. Caring yet bitchy. What on earth are we supposed to do with you guys? Well this month we ask that you either be an all out bitch or an all out Mother Theressa. Either way, the world will be a better place for it, because you are the best at whatever you chose to do.

SCORPIO

Everyone wants to be around you. Everyone wants to be in you or just be you. Let your light so shine that men can adore you. You enjoy the limelight and this is your turn to shine. You are a glammapuss so pull out the couture. Everything you attempt this month will be a success, so try something daring and outright boldface.

SAGITTARIUS



Sagittarius - Your long lost love is trying to get in touch with you. He never stopped loving you so when he finally gets in contact with you please allow him to re-enter your life. It will be as though he never left. The sex will be incredible and you will be made to feel like the woman that you are and honey you are all woman.
W-O-M-A-N!

CAPRICORN

Capricorn - Gretchen, you betta work! Yes mam. You own the world and everything is yours. Fionna got Shrek and you will get Morris if that is what you desire. Besides, your beauty will be rejuvenated and you will experience much attention from the kids. As the summer winds down you will be heating up as you take centre stage in the drama called your life. Just make sure you also take on the starring role. Too often you allow others to play the lead role in a drama written just for you.

AQUARIUS

Aquarius- Stop doubting if the man is right for you. The two of you are cosmically,perfectly in tune with each other. Enjoy the remaining days of summer with him. Do all you ever dreamed of doing. Sweetie, this is your turn, take it.

PISCES

Pisces - The Lord is my shepard, I see what I want! And baby it is you. Most Pisceans are experiencing the full effect of the laws of attraction this summer. Most people find you irrisistible, so if you are single glance about you because he is only an arms length away. Already hitched? Ok then , just be happy.

CHECK US OUT ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB
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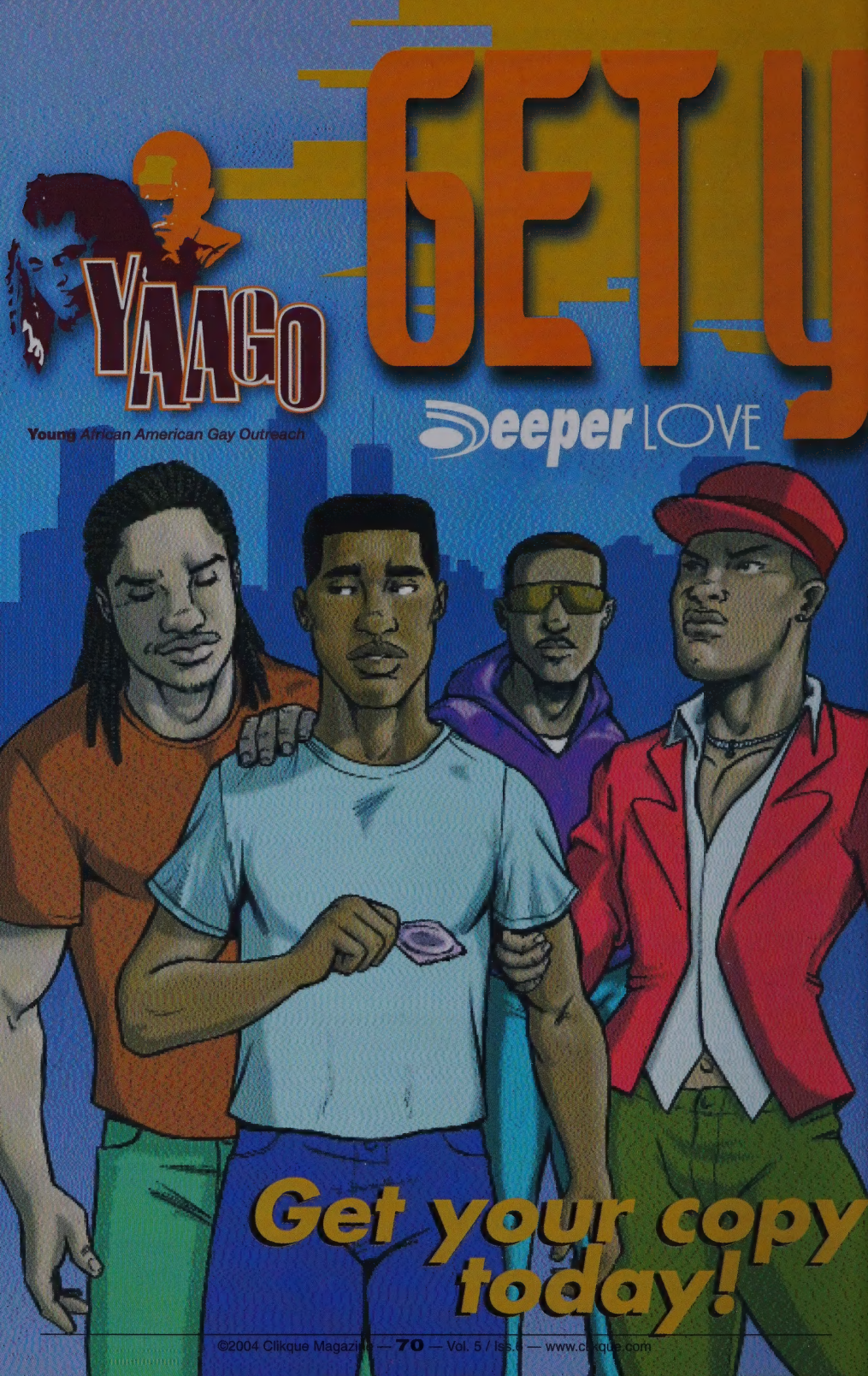
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NightLife

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Remember that clubs and bars go in and out of business all the time. It is usually a good idea to call before you go to any of th establishments listed below. Call 954-455-8781 To Advertise your club - $15/mo

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708 Spring Street..... 404-874-8125
Website: www.legendary708.com

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LIONS DEN
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TRAXX
306 Luckie Street 404-621-4422
Website: www.traxxatlanta.com

JACKSONVILLE, FL

THIRD DIMENSION
711 Edison Ave..... 904-353-6316

MIAMI/FT. LAUD, FL

CLUB BOI
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CLUB GT BAR
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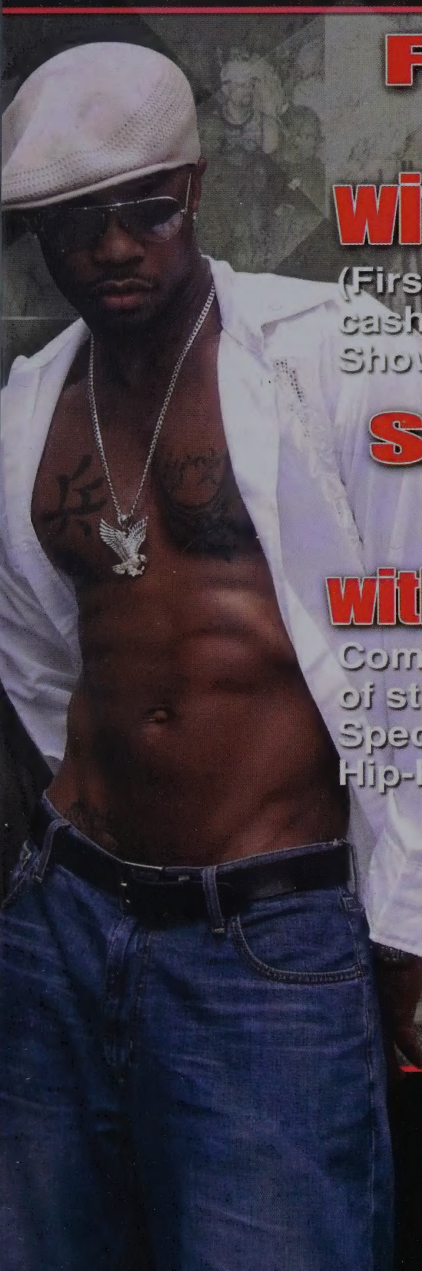

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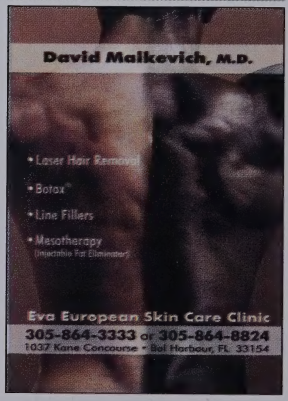

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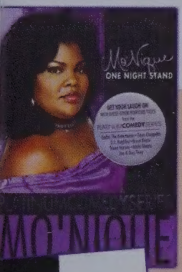

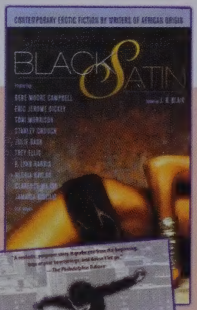

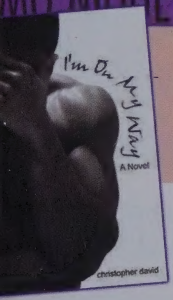

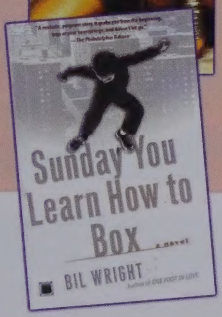

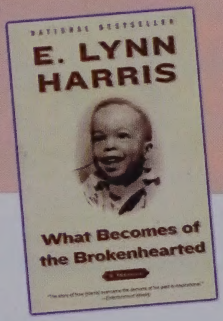

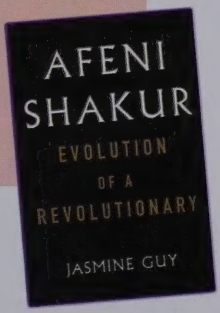

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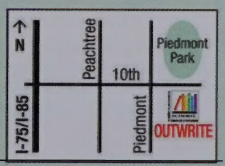

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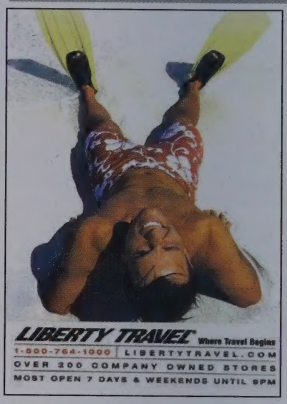

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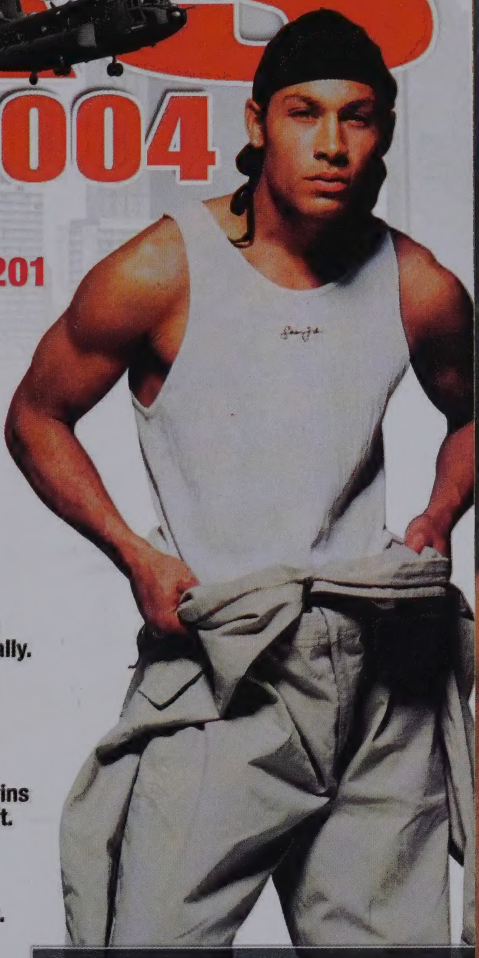

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Shock and Awe
Saturday Oct 2
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This is the Event. 3 Dance floors 3 DJ's with featured Male and Female Exotic Dancers on Boxes. National Entertainer TBA on stage 12:00am

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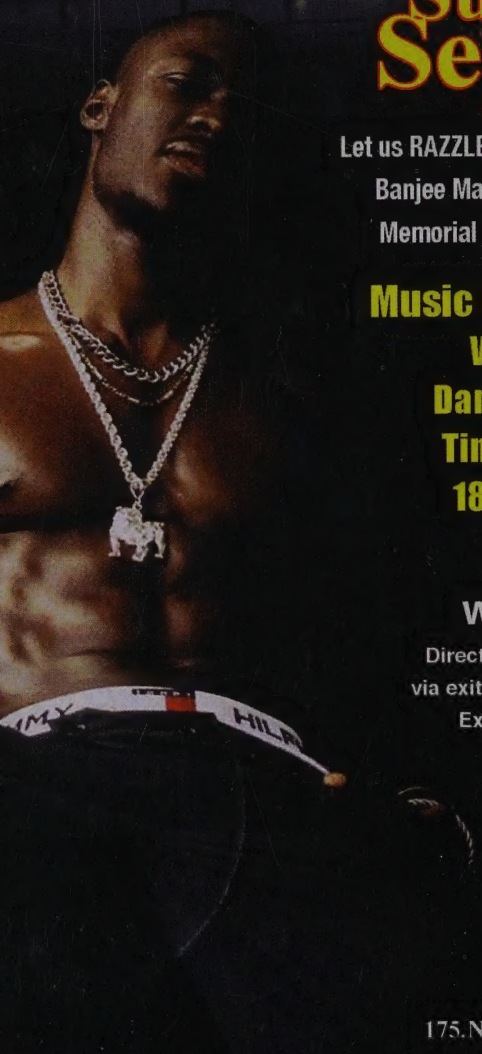

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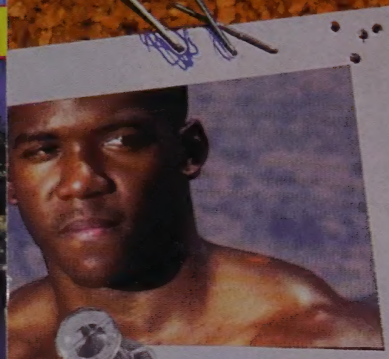

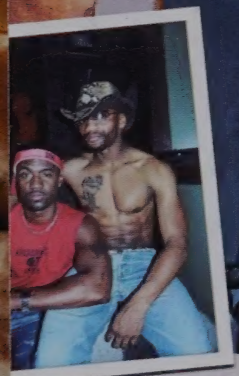

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9.4.04 SATURDAY "Cum Out & Join the biggest ATL Milkshake Saturday"
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9.5.04 SUNDAY Reduced Admission
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EDITORIAL

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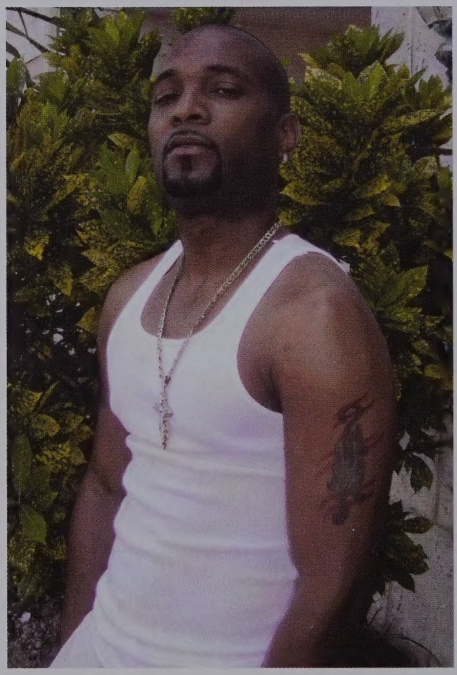
Pride In The City

What is it to have and or show pride? Is it a sense of one's dignity or values or self-respect. Is it the pleasure or satisfaction taken in an achievement, possession, or association.

Or is to have pride an arrogant, unreasonable conceit of one's own superiority in talent, beauty, wealth, rank, etc., which manifests itself in lofty airs, distance, reserve, and often in contempt of others.

Over the next few months, when attending either POCC's Pride In The City,New York, ITLA's Atlanta Black Pride, or Dallas Black Pride, ask yourself, why am I attending these pride events? What is it to have black gay pride? What does this mean? Am I expressing my pride when I finally grab a rainbow colored flag, march down main street, and show the world that I am not afraid that they can see me... letting them know that I am gay?

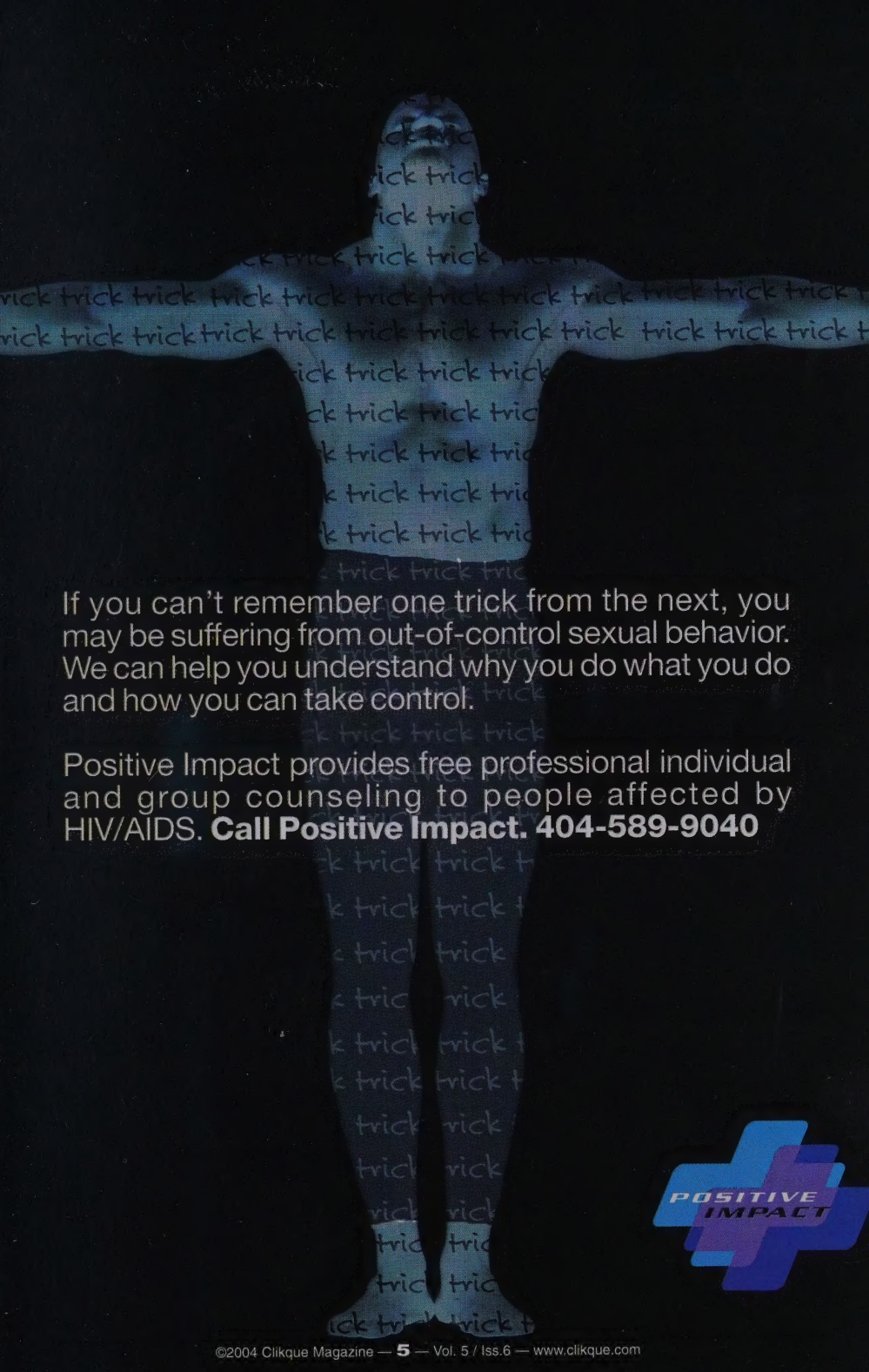


Pride to me, is a comforting reality that it's ok, ok to be who we are, BLACK GAY MALES. Events such as DC Black Pride afforded me that comfort zone. The workshops and film festivals. The literature and poetry readings. The relaxing and entertaining picnics, that provided opportunities for me to mingle and meet hundreds of people with similar concerns and desires as myself. People from various professions such as doctors, lawyers, gender illusionists, politicians, teachers, waiters, maids.... EVERYONE; seeking a place that allows them to be free, to be themselves. For those of us that find it difficult to express this kind of pride in our everyday surroundings, pride events such as those in New York, Atlanta and DC, can be a welcoming release of built up emotions and frustration.

While the night-time parties and festivities are indeed, must experience events, let this year be the year that you'll become a participant, in the not-as-glamorous daytime activities. It is there that you will probably discover that pride is more than parties and boys, but rather an "EVENT" showcasing us, our lives, and our experiences.

Have lots of fun, learn more about yourself and be safe.

Dwight Powell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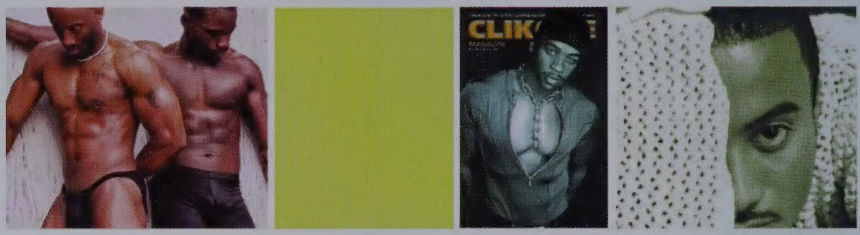

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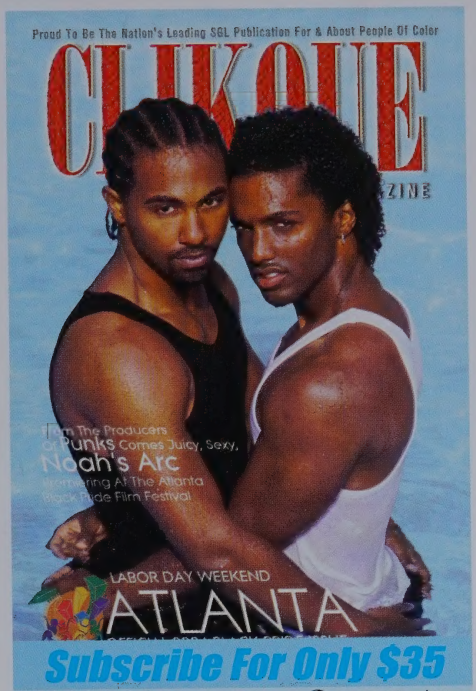

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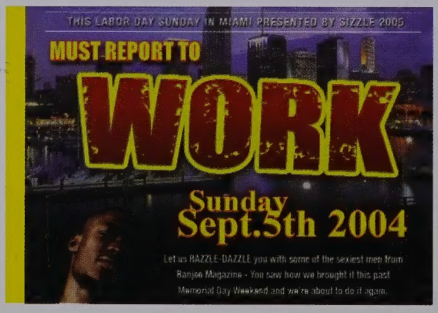
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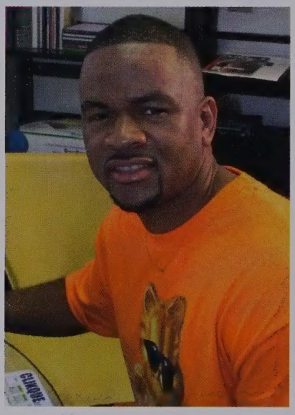
JUDGE NOT

Written By Lewis Nicholson

As I sit here pondering what to write about I ask myself, what people will think of me and the article I am writing. My first thought was who will think I don't practice what I preach or who will be offended by my writing, and lastly, how will what I am writing affect my readership? Then it occurred to me, that all my thoughts are on how will I be judged. As a result, I am writing on the issue of judging. How judgmental am I? Is life about being judged and how important it is to live up to the judge's expectations?



How judgmental am I? At first thought I would have to say that I am the least judgmental person I know but that does not make me non-judgmental. Very rarely do I consider what people do with their lives and draw any conclusions about that person. I look for the good in people. I don't care if you are promiscuous, if you are homeless, if you have no job and don't want to work, nor do I care if you take tina seven days a week.

Does that make me non-judgmental? No, it does not. What it makes me is tolerant. Truth be told, I am obsessed with body images and while I am no Tyson Beckford, I find myself thinking, she is fat, she needs to lose weight or she would be so pretty a few pounds lighter. Does any of this matter? No, it does not. A person's weight is their prerogative. My obesity does not interfere with your life so why does it bother you so much?

Let's talk about life for a minute and ponder the question. Is all of life just one big competition being judged every step of the way? Actually, life is one big stage and we all take turns as contestants and then as judges. My one and a half year-old nephew is the Gap kid. Well, he is the black Gap kid. He won the spot from thousands seen. He looks at his picture in the store and says, " Stefan, me" with a big grin on his face. His mother though she was paid handsomely, for his cute unknowing image all over the Gap store started off his pageant days at a very early age. Though he is not yet scarred by the competition, because he is too young to understand, it is undeniable that the judging of young Stefan has begun.

Have you ever noticed that the smart kids in grade school are the prettier kids? How ironic, as the less beautiful kids catch up and surpass those later in life. The reason for this is that teachers focus on pretty little Pagan and handsome Harry more so, than they do on obese Owen or thick lipped Tamara.

The same drama continues throughout our adolescent and adult lives. What people think of us is very important to most of us and before we know it we are living for the judges and not ourselves. We try to please our parents and teachers in grade school. Then we try to please our friends and fit in as teenagers and not to mention as adults, we try to please the dick we are getting from whomever. We become obsessed in what people think of us that we forget that our lives is just that, our lives. No matter what others think we can only control our lives and we should live it the way we really want.

Now that we have established that we are thrown into the competition of life and being judged every step of the way, lets think about how important it is to live up to the judges expectations.

The only time it is necessary to live up to the judges expectations is when you are actually competing in a pageant or contest of some sort, that is designed to be judged on specific criteria. However, if there isn't a tiara off to the side, along with a cash prize, then you need to set your own rules and be your own judge. Quite frankly, throw out the score sheet and do as you please. What others think of you is not important if you are doing your best, being true to yourself and being impeccable with your word.

In essence therefore, the important thing is to live your life for yourself. You are already a winner just be always being true to you.

So strut for the judges, let them watch you serve, throw them shade, eat the runway and regardless of what they might say, do it like no one is watching. CLK

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Written By Don Sneed

COME HELL OR HIGH WATER

THE JOB HAS TO GET DONE

July 29, 2004 Dallas, Texas, reporting during the ongoing Monsoon/Deluge of July 28th, 29th. My beloved Brothers/sisters, fathers/mothers, sons/daughters and other readers of Clikque Magazine, I ask your forgiveness for my delay in reporting to you on the HIV/AIDS catastrophe that has stricken our Black people throughout the world and especially in our Motherland, Africa.

As a member of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA), which charges it's members to provide the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson and President Bush with advice, recommendations and information that is at each member's disposal, for relief of the AIDS catastrophe. For those of you who know me personally I continue to execute my advisory duties honesty, steadfastness and the old time 1960's Civil Rights era courage - come hell or high water.

The International AIDS Conference recently concluded in Bangkok, Thailand, and for us {Black folks} the news went from horrifying too tragic (mind you this is 22 years into the epidemic). Each of my readers knows someone with the deadly AIDS virus or someone or many that have already succumbed to this Scourge of the 21st Century. In 2003 5 million people were newly infected with the Deadly AIDS virus [Please do not believe the hype - AIDS will still kill you DEAD!}. In 2003 3 million people died from AIDS will a total of 21.8 million body bags since the beginning of the epidemic. Just in case any of you all have been too busy too notice: the majorities of the 21.8 million dead bodies are black people and the majority of them or black women! In our country black SGLs (Same Gender Loving) males the heaviest and most vicious of the HIV/AIDS disease burden, with Black women close on our heels. The majority of Children in our nation with HIV/AIDS are Black Children. I refuse to continue to wax eloquent about how horrible this Epidemic is for us. Suffice it to say that HIV is a weapon of mass destruction when it comes to its effect on Black People, not only in America, but also throughout the world. The question is what are we going to do about it?

The answer to that question is much of nothing. Let us cut to the chase. The American taxpayers and other public and private entities have shouldered the overwhelming majority of the burden for providing the economic resources (money) for black organizations to prevent the spread of this disease amongst our people and to provide life sustaining services to those of us who already have it. Brothers/Sisters, lets take of the blinders, pull the cotton from our ears and get our feet out of our mouths: this approach is killing us. At the recent 23rd Meeting of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS I made it quite clear and had it entered into the records my concerns regarding the adverse impact of individual and institutionalized racism on the disproportionate health outcomes for Black Americans when it comes to AIDS. I went on to point out my observation of the domination, control and manipulation of billions and billions of public and private dollars for HIV/AIDS relief in this country by White gay men and the organizations run by and/or controlled by them. It should be apparent to even a deaf, dumb and blind individual, with severe mental defects and disorders, that our white gay and lesbian brothers/sisters are either clueless as to what to do to effectively serve Black people with or at highest risk for contracting HIV or they are suffering from a chronic case of apathy by choice. Let me reassure all of you: I love all 6 billion plus of God's Children on this planet but I do and will take issue with any of their behaviors that cause pain, death and suffering to innocent individuals and/or groups. Remember, many white gay nightclubs, throughout America still have "Black Folks nights" at their clubs (one night out of the week or month when Black people are made to feel welcome.

We have only ourselves to blame, primarily, for this tragic state of affairs. During the 22 years of the AIDS Death March (Pandemic) black gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, transgender, Down-Lo (deep Cover, In the Bushes, Between-the-Sheets, or whatever) brothers have been missing in action, asleep at the switch, or out to lunch for lunch meat when it comes to coughing up some serious dollars of their own to fight this monster called HIV/AIDS. This has, truly, not been the case with our White Gay/Lesbian counterparts on the other side of town. Please, let us refrain from engaging in this propaganda, sham and out right lie that Black Gays/lesbians, etc., don't have the money to donate. I heard just last week that some Brothers/Sisters are feverously organizing a Black

COME HELL CONTINUES ON PAGE 16

Mr. Don Sneed is a senior staff writer of Clikque Magazine. As Agency Director of Renaissance III in Dallas, Texas, Mr. Sneed has been a pillar in our community fighting the spread of HIV and AIDS. In January of 2003 Mr. Sneed was sworn in by Claude Allen, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, to serve a four-year term on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA).

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Gay/Lesbian Pride week in Buctussell/hootersville just in time for Kwanzaa/Christmas/New Years holiday season and the three main hotels and other venues are already sold out!!! Black Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals, SGLs, Down-Lo {Under-the-Covers, in-the-bushes, "EE Trade Boiz {electronic-email} whatever, have more than adequate disposable cash to match Black AIDS Service Organizations annual Budgets, dollar-for-dollar, in private donations, yet for over 22 years they have refused to because they are too self-centered, selfish and self-absorbed to not only give of their money, talents and time but also to even give a damn!!! This sort of behavior, trust, is sure to bring the wrath of God upon the heads of the individual and collective perpetrators of such a crime against humanity on this side of the sky, not on some "Judgment Day" after everyone is dead (probably from HIV/AIDS). Is Humanity to believe that a white SGLs life is more valuable to their brothers and sisters than ours is to us?!!!

Many Black AIDS Service Organizations, throughout America, are struggling to keep our doors open and executive directors are falling dead at their desks, having to continue to work 80 plus hour weeks under the horrific mandatory constraints, stipulations and regulations imposed upon us by public and private funding entities. Let us be for real my brothers and sisters; we are children of God and human too. In an effort, for us, as a people, who can afford it, to more effectively respond to a WMD terror which has claimed the lives of over 5 million Black women already; KIXCON (King-X Continuum), Inc., Renaissance III, Inc., and the young Black gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and Down-Lo brothers of the ALBRC (Abe Lincoln Black Republican Caucus) Dallas, Chapter, will introduce the 1-in 5-500 Emergency Black Private Citizens HIV/AIDS RELIEF Campaign.

The 1-in-5-500 Campaign will be announced at a press/media conference in Atlanta, Georgia, on August 18, 2004. This campaign will call upon 500 of our Black Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Down-lo/etc., Brothers/Sisters in five major cities to donate $1,000.00, within 30 days to a designated Black AIDS Service organization in their hometown with an ongoing Pledge of continuing support for a five-year period.

Because our beloved Brothers/Sisters have been so reluctant to contribute their minds, talent, time and most of all money, to save one another's lives {as our white counterparts do on the other side of town} the organizers of the 1-in-5-500 Black Private Citizens HIV/AIDS Emergency relief Campaign, will be borrowing a tactic from our counterparts playbook and publicly out those SGLs, who can afford it, who refuse to help us help one another. It is an insult and an international disgrace for us to ask and expect others to do for us that which we could and should be doing for ourselves. Please LOVE {not lust} one another. Love is Life.

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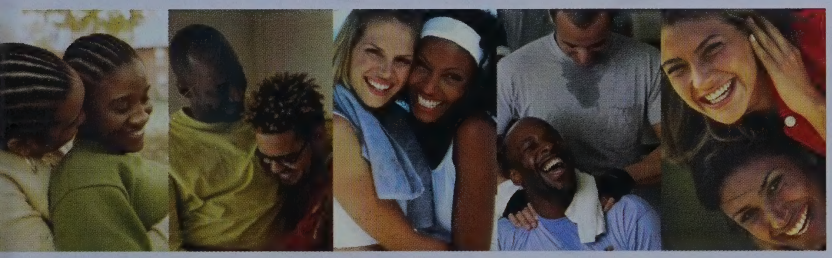

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STUDY FINDS NO EVIDENCE OF HIV SUPERINFECTION AMONG HIGHLY EXPOSED COUPLES

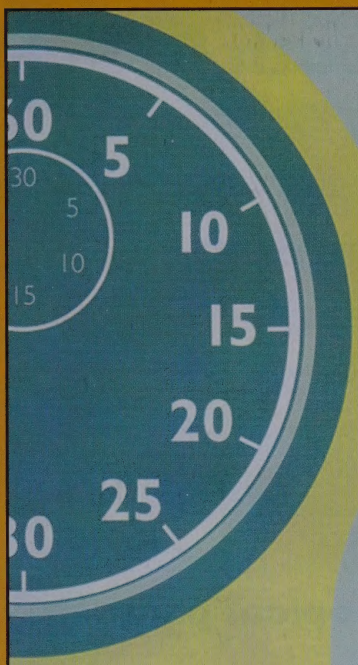
A study of 33 HIV-positive couples who engage in frequent unprotected sex finds no evidence of HIV superinfection, the term given to the idea that one can be infected with multiple strains of HIV that are slightly genetically different. The study by researchers at the Gladstone Institute of Virology and Immunology in San Francisco, which was presented at the 15th International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, calls into question the widely held perception that HIV-positive people are susceptible to additional infections by viral variants that may be drug-resistant or more virulent, says lead researcher Robert Grant, MD.

The ongoing investigation, known as the Positive Partners study, began in 2001 and will eventually involve up to 200 HIV-infected couples. It is designed to investigate the incidence of HIV superinfection. In addition to the couples cited in these preliminary study findings, 30

individuals reporting multiple partners were included in the study. One of them, a participant who had recently developed HIV infection, presented with a highly divergent variation of the virus at a follow-up visit. "This one case demonstrates that people who have recently developed HIV-1 can harbor multiple viruses," notes Grant. "In contrast, superinfection has not appeared in people who have had the disease for many years, as our couples have."

The possibility that superinfection may be restricted to a short window period after the development of HIV has been suggested by experimental studies in nonhuman primates. In addition, a recent mathematical analysis demonstrated that superinfection restricted to a short window period after HIV seroconversion could account for the high prevalence of recombinant and dual infections observed in some parts of the world. This analysis has just been published in the July 23, 2004, issue of AIDS, the journal of the International AIDS Society, as a paper titled "HIV-1 Superinfection and Viral Diversity," by Grant and investigators Kimber L. Gross and Travis C. Porco of the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

"Studies are warranted to better understand why superinfection among patients who have had HIV for a long time is rare," Grant explains. "The mechanisms preventing superinfection may include specific or non-specific antiviral immune responses or viral interference. If there is indeed an immune response at play, it's reasonable to investigate the possibility of inducing that response with a vaccine that can be made available to high-risk HIV-negative individuals."



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Written By Carrington JaRel Lei

Does the black family bear some responsibility for

the "DL" brotha and the HIV infection rate in African-American women?

At some point, and who dares suggest when, "sup!", "baby daddy", sagging pants, Escalades on 22's, basketball and hip - hop all became synonymous with the African-American male. As "flattering" as all of that may seem (and that's usually depending upon who you are and where you come from), there is yet another affectation to add to our repertoire. Neatly tucked beneath our mattresses right next to the guns, gold teeth, demo-tapes and drug stashes; black men can now proudly lay claim to the term, "DL".

According to the latest CDC statistics, African-American women account for 72% of all new HIV cases and HIV/AIDS is among the top three causes of death for African-American men ages 25-54. While not totally disagreeing with those numbers - as I have complete confidence in the people who have devoted their time and energy to researching them, I am not as emphatic regarding the implication behind them. How does one alter the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the African - American bisexual male without addressing the justification behind the bisexual male?

As the current trend in pop-culture seems to have become laying blame for these numbers and their contribution to the breakdown of the black family on the shoulders of the "DL brotha", it is just as alarming that no one seems to be willing to call to task the black family for their contributions in creating the "DL brotha"!

"Faggot! Punk! Sissy! Gay! Funny!" Depending upon who you are and the context of your delivery, directing one of these terms at a black man can either get you dismissed as a hater or just as easily, get you a quick ass-kickin'. As a kid growing up in a not so typical black family, I reflect upon my own youth and entree' into adulthood where, rare was the occasion that I can recall a time when either of those words were directed towards someone as a term of endearment. Never have I witnessed someone walk up to a father and his thirteen year old son to offer, "Man, your little faggot has some serious speed; you should try to get him on the track team." Or, "Girl, I remember when I used to change his diapers, now look at him, he turned out to be a handsome lil'punk!"

Words such as these foster and inspire self-loathing, self-hatred, embarrassment and ultimately, the desire for a child to distance himself from all things gay or, "faggot-like". These comments are sometimes used in everyday conversation by a father, an older brother, an uncle, a mother, and in some cases even "granny" had a comment about the "bull-dagga" down the street.

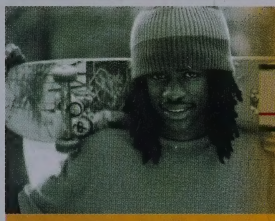
Never met with a smile or a hug, these terms are always spat with disdain, contempt or hatred and typically coincide with feelings of anger. What child struggling to understand his/or her own same-sex attraction dare reveal these confusing feelings to his family or anyone close to him or her? Reveal that you are gay or bisexual to the very same people who have inadvertently addressed you with such repulsion? How dare we suggest that these children are now expected to approach friends and family with the revelation that, "I'm too, a faggot!"?

The African-American family has for far too long been caught up in what everyone else thinks and not spending enough time focusing on self and unconditional love. In a lot of cases, the crack-head we hide our valuables from when he stops by for a visit is more welcomed into our homes than the sister who is simply in love with another sister. I've personally gone into homes where there were pictures on the walls and atop the television of the son who is serving a life-sentence in prison for his "third-strike" or in some cases murder and not one of the son who went to college graduated, bought his own home, his own car and has never been in trouble. We're ashamed of him because he has a voice that is higher than we deem it should be, or dare I say because his eyebrows are arched. Why? Because he chooses to love another man and even with all of his accomplishments, he is still an embarrassment to the family.

We are so quick to point out the passages in the bible that single out homosexuality, but we make room at our tables for the adulterer who brings his woman to

BY THE #s

According to statistics received from the Center for Disease Control, one in 160 black women are infected by HIV and one-fourth of them are unaware of their status. Of particular concern is the fact that **64%** of all new HIV cases reported in 2003 were Black women.



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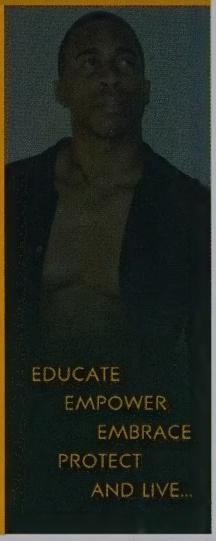

the family reunion while his wife is at home.

Is it acceptable for a man to worship Michael Jordan, Lie to his brother, Covet his neighbors wife, commit adultery, and steal from his job, yet give him a pass while breaking five of the Ten Commandments but search the bible for a passage that speaks of homosexuality in an effort to demonize the homosexual? We have a tendency to pick which laws in the bible we choose to be governed by, which are usually the ones that apply to everyone else so we negate the fact that we continually break most of the Ten Commandments - "How 'bout them punks?"

At some point in our society, homosexuality has inched its way up the sin hierarchy to take its place as the ultimate sin and this writer does not believe that it's fair to the millions of same gender-lover people who work, love and lead productive lives to continue this destructive trend.

The black family, the black church and the black community as a whole has jumped on the "gays are evil" bandwagon and damaged our children to the point that when they become men, they forgo who they truly are in an effort to please society, but most importantly, to please those closest to them, family. There are more black men who marry and have children, yet lead the "DL" lifestyle because the black community dictates that they are supposed to and not necessarily because they want to, than most realize. Many gay or bisexual men live in cities far away from the realities of "home" because the reality is that it's more acceptable to be who you are from afar because that way we don't have to see it. Where are the statistics for the number of men and women who are HIV positive because they don't love themselves enough to truly care about protecting themselves from a possibly deadly disease because they've never felt loved?

Society says that as a black man by the time you are twenty-three, you are supposed to have at least three children with two baby mommas and at least one woman on the side and if not, you must be a fag! We need to love ourselves and our children enough to ensure that they know that no matter what they are or who they become, family is a bond that nobody, no disease, and no orientation can break.

The Black man's disappointment with his effeminate son is evident, whereas the white man, like his sons choice or not, is at minimum tolerant of it and in a lot of cases the lover/boyfriend becomes a part of the family.

As African-Americans, we have to become more conscious of the affect our personal beliefs have on our children and allow our children to become who they are on their own. When a white man has an affair his family doesn't know about it until he leaves her a house in his will because he understands the importance of allegiance to family and nothing, not even a long - term affair, will interfere with that. We, as African - Americans seem to be more caught up with what Miss Gladys down the street thinks than what our children might be going through. Although I think we understand that we must love our child because of who he is, the hard part is getting us to understand that there may also come a time when you have to love your child despite who he is.

From Barnes & Nobel

TOP SELLING GAY TITLES OF ALL TIME

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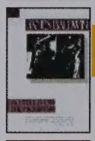

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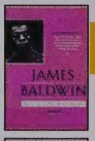

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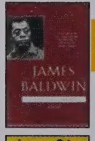

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#1 Invisible Life

by E lynn Harris

Invisible Life is the story of a young man's coming of age. Law school, girlfriends, and career choices were all part of Raymond Tyler's life, but there were other, more terrifying issues for him to confront. Being black was tough enough, but Raymond was becoming more and more conscious of sexual feelings that he knew weren't "right." He was completely committed to Sela, his longtime girlfriend, but his attraction to Kelvin, whom he had met during his last year in law school, had become more than just a friendship. No matter how much he tried to suppress them, his feelings were deeply sexual.

Fleeing to New York to escape both Sela and Kelvin,

#2 GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN FROM THE PUBLISHER

"Mountain," Baldwin said, "is the book I had to write if I was ever going to write anything else."

Go Tell It On The Mountain, first published in 1953, is Baldwin's first major work, a novel that has established itself as an American classic. With lyrical precision, psychological directness, and a rage that is at once unrelenting and compassionate, Baldwin chronicles a fourteen-year-old boy's discovery of the terms of his identity as the stepson of the minister of a storefront Pentecostal church in Harlem one Saturday in March of 1935. Baldwin's rendering of his protagonist's spiritual, sexual, and moral struggle of self-invention opened new possibilities in the American language and in the way Americans understand themselves.

Top Sell African-American Gay Fiction of all time

1. Invisible Life
E. Lynn Harris / Paperback / Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group / February 1994

2. Go Tell It on the Mountain
James Baldwin / Mass Market Paperback / Dell Publishing Company, Incorporated / May 1976

3. Just as I Am
E. Lynn Harris / Paperback / Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group / February 1995

4. And This Too Shall Pass
E. Lynn Harris / Paperback / Random House Adult Trade Publishing Group / March 1997

5. Abide with Me
E. Lynn Harris / Paperback / Knopf Publishing Group / May 2000

6. Giovanni's Room
James Baldwin / Paperback / Dell Publishing Company, Incorporated / June 2000

7. Mama Black Widow
Iceberg Slim / Paperback / Lushena Publishing / June 1972

8. Another Country
James Baldwin / Paperback / Knopf Publishing Group / January 1993

9. If This World Were Mine
E. Lynn Harris / Paperback / Random House Adult Trade Publishing Group / July 1998

10. Love the One You're With
James Earl Hardy / Paperback / HarperCollins Publishers / July 2003

11. Go Tell It On the Mountain
(Modern Library Series)
James Baldwin / Hardcover / The Random House Publishing Group / July 1995

12. Zami: A New Spelling of My Name: A Biomythography
Audre Lorde / Paperback / Crossing Press, Inc., The / April 1988

13. Go Tell It on the Mountain
James Baldwin / Paperback / Dell Publishing Company, Incorporated / June 2000

14. Loving Her
Ann Allen Shockley / Paperback / Northeastern University Press / September 1997

15. Collected Poems of Audre Lorde
Audre Lorde / Paperback / Norton, W. W. & Company, Inc. / January 2000

16. Necessary Hunger
Nina Revoyr / Paperback / St. Martin's Press / March 1998

17. Revenge Is Best Served Cold
Tracie Howard / Paperback / NAL Trade / October 2001

18. B-Boy Blues: A Seriously Sexy, Fiercely Funny, Black-on-Black Love Story
James Earl Hardy / Paperback / Alyson Publications / November 1994

19. Invisible Life
E. Lynn Harris / Audio / Random House Audio Publishing Group / March 1999

20. Love's Instruments
Melvin Dixon / Paperback / Tia Chucha Press / October 1995
Our Price: $10.95
Usually ships within 2-3 days

21. 2nd Time Around
James Earl Hardy / Paperback / Alyson Publications / September 1996

22. If Only for One Nite
James Earl Hardy / Paperback / Alyson Publications / May 1998

23. Visitation of the Spirits
Randall Kenan / Paperback / Knopf Publishing Group / January 2000

24. Giovanni's Room
James Baldwin / Hardcover / The Random House Publishing Group / May 2001

25. Don't Explain: Short Fiction
Jewelle Gomez / Paperback / Firebrand Books / July 1998

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

Raymond finds himself more confused than ever before. New relationships—both male and female—give him enormous pleasure but keep him from finding the inner peace and lasting love he so desperately desires. The horrible illness and death of a friend force Raymond, at last, to face the truth.

Invisible Life has been hailed as "one of the most thought-provoking books—since James Baldwin's Another Country" (Richmond Voice), and Harris's "stories have become the toast of bookstores, reading groups, men, women, and gay and straight people" (Atlanta Journal-Constitution). Proceeds from the sale of this special fifth anniversary edition will go to the E. Lynn Harris Foundation, a charitable organization that gives young people across the country the opportunity to study writing with established authors, and also aids emerging artists.

TOP 10 BOOKS SOLD AT OUTWRITE

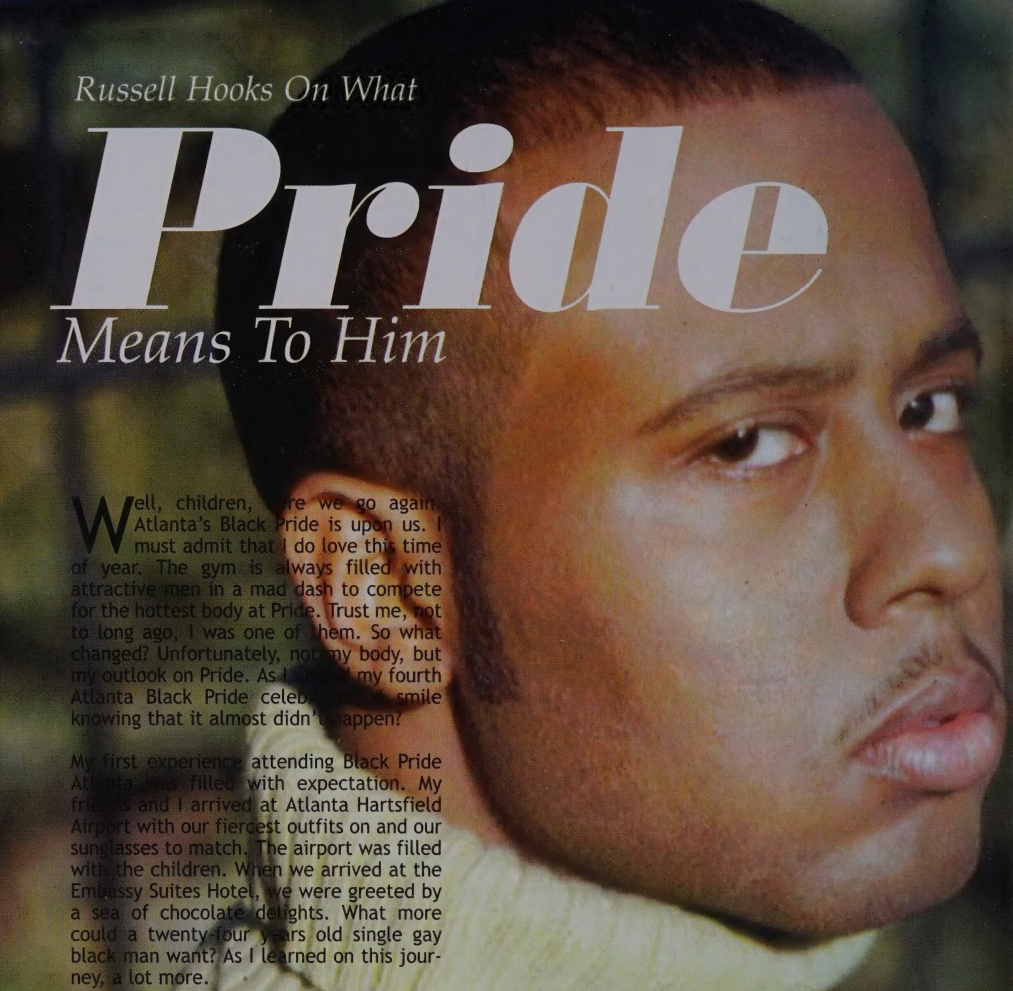
1	***The Angel & The Poper***, by J.L. king, *Random House*
2	***What Becomes ...Broken Heart***, E Lynn Harris, *Random House*
3	***I'm On My Way***, Christopher Davis, *Author House*
4	***Luther***, Craig Seymour, *Harper Collins*
5	***Black, Gay and Christian***, Herndon L Davis, *Davis, Lett & Assoc.*
6	***Brothers of New Essex***, Belasco, *PGW*
7	***Passion Marks***, Lee Hayes, *Simon & Schuster*
8	***Any Way the Wind Blows***, E Lynn Harris, *Random House*
9	***Kindred***, Octavia Butler, *Houghton Miffin*
10	***If This World Were Mine***, E Lynn Harris, *Random House*

The list was compiled for Clikque Magazine courtesy of Outwrite Bookstore in Atlanta, Ga. Pick-up one of the books above by visiting Outwrite or a bookstore near you.

Russell Hooks On What

Pride

Means To Him



Well, children, here we go again. Atlanta's Black Pride is upon us. I must admit that I do love this time of year. The gym is always filled with attractive men in a mad dash to compete for the hottest body at Pride. Trust me, not to long ago, I was one of them. So what changed? Unfortunately, not my body, but my outlook on Pride. As I [illegible] my fourth Atlanta Black Pride celeb[illegible] smile knowing that it almost didn't happen?

My first experience attending Black Pride Atlanta was filled with expectation. My friends and I arrived at Atlanta Hartsfield Airport with our fiercest outfits on and our sunglasses to match. The airport was filled with the children. When we arrived at the Embassy Suites Hotel, we were greeted by a sea of chocolate delights. What more could a twenty-four years old single gay black man want? As I learned on this journey, a lot more.

Our first night we ventured to the Sequel (now Club 708). It was a room filled to capacity with men. My friends had begun to disperse and hunt their prey, while I sat in awe. I had never seen these many black gay men in one place at the same time. I began to cruise the club, but no one spoke to me. In fact, everyone seemed to be in their own world. I had never felt so alone in my life. Why was I feeling this way? I ignored it. However, I felt the same every night at every club. When we were leaving Atlanta, I vowed to never return to another Black Pride event. I had a miserable time. I felt like I had just had a one night stand. I began to ask, is this it?

When I returned to Chicago, I began to realize that I had never liked meeting men at the club anyway. Why did I assume that traveling to Atlanta would change this? I began to read all of the pride information. I had failed to take advantage of so many other Pride events. I had relied solely on the club to fill all of my needs. My friends convinced me to give Atlanta Black Pride another try. Reluctantly, I agreed. However, like my girl Janet said, "This time I was going to do things my way."

I made a vow to attend at least one seminar and one non-club event on my second trip to Black Pride Atlanta. I am so grateful that I did. When I arrive at my first seminar, I was skeptical. My friends had filled my head with the belief that the only people that attended these seminars were lonely and preyed on the young. When I walked in, I was greeted by some of the friendliest faces I had ever seen at Pride. They actually spoke to me and I listened. These men and women were intelligent and insightful. They were active participants in the community. Many of them had families and a full life outside of the club. A life up until then I assumed did not exist. They became my shining examples that you can not allow this life to live you, but you must live it.

My friends thought I was insane. Why would I come all the way to Atlanta to sit in a room and learn? My response was, "Why would they come all the way to Atlanta to go to the same clubs and see the same

boys we have in Chicago? Now I am not one of those bitter girls who hate the club. Quite the opposite; however, let's not hate on those who want to experience more from Pride.

Reeling from this experience, I attended the Black Pride Marketplace. I was amazed at some of the things that people in our community were involved in. From art, literature, music, and community involvement, I met so many fascinating and nice people.

The same people that I had met early that afternoon were some of the faces that I passed by at the club that evening. And guess what happened this time? They spoke. In fact, attending these seminars and non-club events interwoven with the club only enhanced my Pride experience.

Now as I venture towards my fourth Atlanta Black Pride experience. I have even taken it one step further. I realized that many people felt the way I felt at Pride. Many of us are looking for alternative avenues to intermingle with the community at Black Pride. Now I am actively involved in creating other avenues for people to experience all that Atlanta Black Pride is and can be.

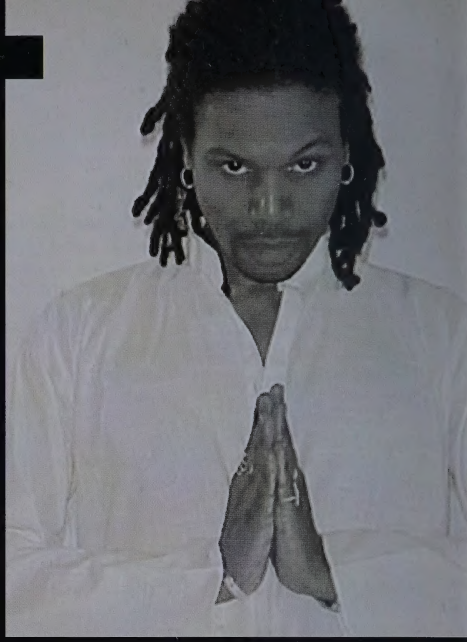
I am one of four incredible black men (James, J and Sean) who have co-founded, Together In Love, an organization committed to celebrating and championing the importance of African-American gay and lesbian relationships. This year we are proud to co-sponsor two events alongside In the Life Atlanta, Clikque Magazine, David Magazine and Southern Voices that will celebrate our couples. YES!!! My promotional company, I.M.G. Promotions, is also producing Peace Out South. An international G/L/B/T hip-hop concert which will be held Sunday, September 5th, at Phase One. This benefit concert will expose many of these pioneering G/L/B/T hip-hop artists to Atlanta for the first time.

As I conclude this article, I reflect on my own growth since my first Atlanta Black Pride. The pride that almost became my last. I realized that my experience at Pride only became better when I took it upon me, myself, and I to make it better. At this years Pride, if you felt the way I felt at my first Pride, I challenge you to step outside of the club at least for a moment and venture to one of these activities. I hope this will not only heighten your experience at Pride, but lead you to a better understanding of you and your community. Who knows? Maybe next year, I'll have the honor of attending one of your Atlanta Black Pride events? Stay true, and always do you. See you at Pride!

Russell D Hooks is co-creator of Together in Love. A social group committed to the celebration of African-American gay and lesbian relationships. He is also the President of I.M.G. Promotions. A company whose mission is to expand the voice of hip-hop to include the L/G/B/T community. He can be reached at russell.hooks@suntrust.com

Malik Williams, HIV Prevention Specialist - AID Atlanta

People often ask, "Why Black Gay Pride? Why be proud about just being who you are?" Too often, though, just being who I am is frowned upon, disparaged, attacked and maligned. Being who I am means having to listen to politicians, ministers, and various other unqualified commentators talk about how my "agenda" is threatening their way of life. Being who I am means explaining to my sistahs on a daily basis that HIV doesn't care about labels and identities. Being who I am means sometimes being an outsider in my own communities. Why Pride? Because being who I am takes more than just living, it takes courage. It takes commitment to truth. It takes a willingness to stand up, speak out, and fight oppression. And I believe integrity is something to be proud of. Why Pride? Living my life unapologetically – being who I am – is reason enough.



What Pride Means To Me

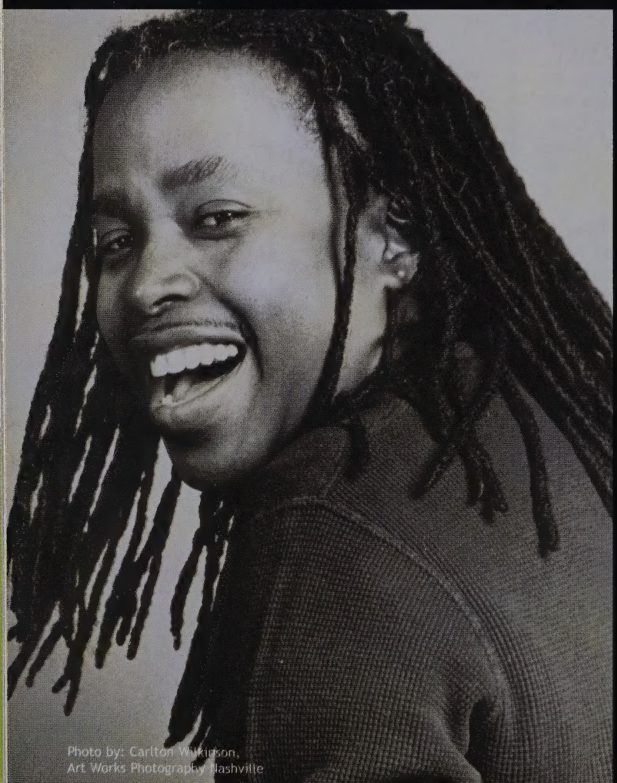


Photo by: Carlton Wilkinson, Art Works Photography Nashville

Pride is one word that means so many different things to so many people. For me, it is an action word that means accepting who you are inside and letting it show without fear on the outside. It's not just a word that is synonymous with Gay/Same Gender Loving issues; it can range anywhere from culture, to ethnicity to style of dress or music. By living one's truth in all facets of your life including relationships, sexuality, heritage and culture, I think any person that visually reflects such an image is what having pride can mean to someone. - Dwayne Jenkins, Brothers United Network of Tennessee Inc., Nashville Black PRIDE.

Dwayne Jenkins, Brothers United Progr
Coordinator @ Nashville Cares

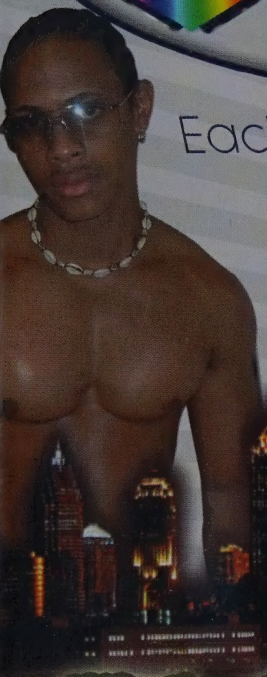
THE Chaparral

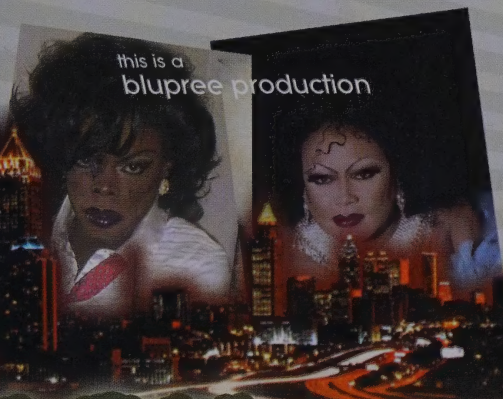
ATLANTA, GA

2715 Buford Highway
404.634.3737
18 to party-21 to drink

Each & Every Sunday

Still Partying Late



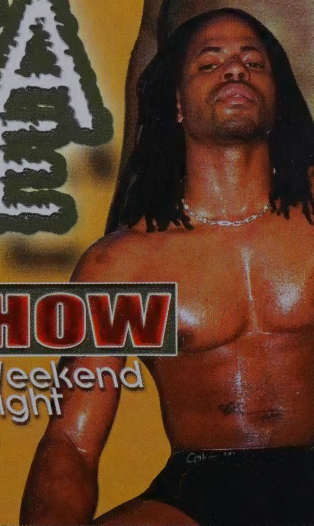


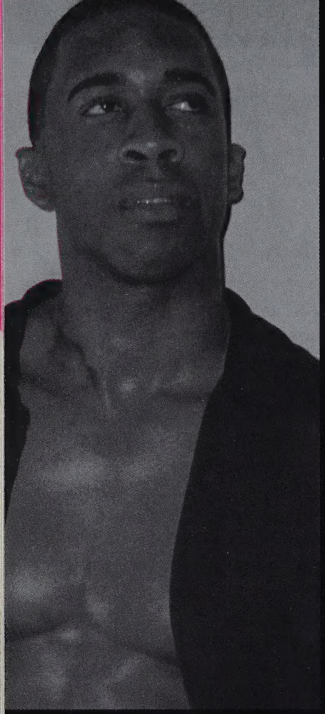
BLACK ATLANTA PRIDE

Male Strippers SUPER SHOW

The Place To Be This Labor Day Weekend
Reduced Admission Before Midnight
Super Male Revue Starts @ 11PM

SUN. SEPT 5TH





What Pride Means To Me

James Broussard, Prevention Case Manager YMSM

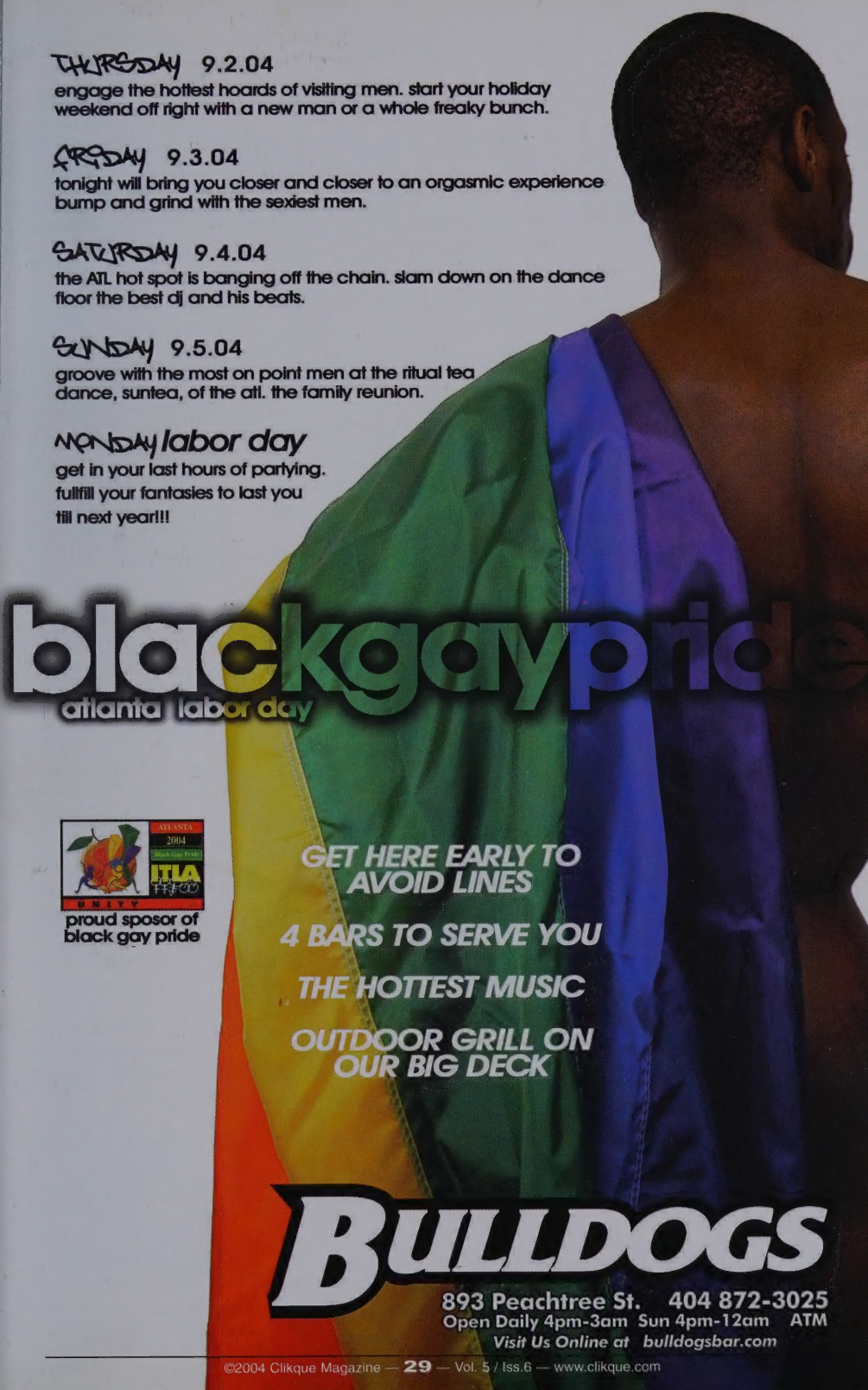
To me, Black Gay Pride means jumping on a plane with my good friends to Atlanta with the expectation of a No Holds Barred good time. I see a sea of diverse bruthas from all over the U.S. coming to one city, to one spot to let it all hang out. Martinis, margaritas, shots, and Coronas swallowed at the bar. Janet, Beyonce, Ludacris, Britney, Lil John, T.I., etc. screaming from a blazing sound system. And me, moving around the club in a tight pair of low rise jeans and some bad ass cowboy boots.

Kevin Bynes, Program Coordinator For The Deeper Love Program @ - AID Atlanta

Very often I hear from white people who lack understanding that they do not see the need for a Black Gay Pride. Questions like "Why do they need their own pride?" surface constantly every year as we approach the pride festivities. So when asked to respond to the question "What Black Gay Pride means to me," I saw an opportunity to answer this question for the naysayers.

It has been suggested that Atlanta Pride should be for everyone. I tend to agree with this sentiment. I do have some questions, however, about who's job it is to make pride for everyone. I've many time heard this point raised as if it is the responsibility of Black folks to make this event for everyone as opposed to the responsibility of the Atlanta Pride Committee and that we should endure the feelings of alienation and otherness for the good of the whole. Pride should be for everyone, so ignore your needs and come celebrate with us.

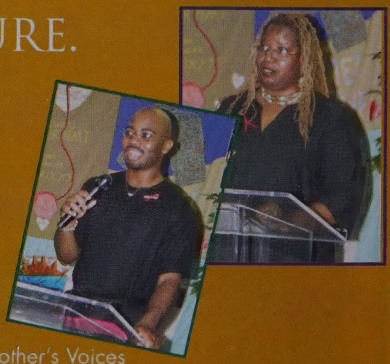
Black Pride is my opportunity to be Black and Gay in multiple spaces for an entire weekend. Rarely do I get to be in a casual informal space that is both black and gay and be fulfilled. At Black Gay Pride, in that host hotel, I get to walk as my whole self into spaces. This is what Black Pride means to me.


THURSDAY 9.2.04
engage the hottest hoards of visiting men. start your holiday weekend off right with a new man or a whole freaky bunch.
FRIDAY 9.3.04
tonight will bring you closer and closer to an orgasmic experience bump and grind with the sexiest men.
SATURDAY 9.4.04
the ATL hot spot is banging off the chain. slam down on the dance floor the best dj and his beats.
SUNDAY 9.5.04
groove with the most on point men at the ritual tea dance, suntea, of the atl. the family reunion.
MONDAY labor day
get in your last hours of partying. fullfill your fantasies to last you till next year!!!
blackgaypride
atlanta labor day
ATLANTA 2004 Black Gay Pride
ITLA
UNITY
proud sposor of black gay pride
GET HERE EARLY TO AVOID LINES
4 BARS TO SERVE YOU
THE HOTTEST MUSIC
OUTDOOR GRILL ON OUR BIG DECK
BULLDOGS
893 Peachtree St. 404 872-3025
Open Daily 4pm-3am Sun 4pm-12am ATM
Visit Us Online at bulldogsbar.com

In The Life Atlanta Candle Light Vigil 2004

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2004
7:00pm TO 10:00pm
STUDIO PLEX 659 AUBURN AVE.

ITLA CELEBRATES THE LIVES AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THOSE WHO PASSED FROM THIS EARTH. JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE WITH MUSIC, ART AND DANCE IN A JOYOUS REMEMBRANCE OF OUR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.



ATLANTA 2004 Black Gay Pride ITLA UNITY

Sponsored in part by:
Dekalb County Board of Health and Mother's Voices

Atlanta's 2nd Annual Black Gay & Lesbian film festival

See Us In The Life

Showcasing films by and about same gender loving people of African descent

Presented by:

In The Life Atlanta, Inc.
In Collaboration with
àFRIsistahs & MoJAM Entertainment

September 2nd and 5th 2004

The Ski Trip – Maurice Jamal 80mins
Ski trip is a zany feature-length romantic comedy following the hijinks of a close group of 20-something gay friends

*Butch Mystique - Debra Wilson 35mins
Butch Mystique exposes the rules, thoughts, passions and concerns of African American butch-stud, identified lesbians.

Karmen Geï - Joseph Gaï Ramaka 82 mins
A retelling of the celebrated Carmen myth set in contemporary Senegal to African music and dance.

SEX, THE TALK - Wanda "Angel" Brown 3mins
This international documentary covers women in London, Johannesburg, Nigeria, Brazil and the USA about their true life stories and views on sexually transmitted diseases, the misconceptions of woman to woman safer sex and ways to bring up the safer sex conversation before being intimate.

Dakan - Mohamed Camara 87 minutes
Dakan is the first feature film on homosexuality from sub-Saharan Africa. It is the story of two men who by "coming out" disappear, become invisible to their families and society, because their society has no language, which recognizes their love.

Desperate in Love - Wanda "Angel" Brown 30mins
A Black Lesbian who's been out of the dating scene for quite some time; desperate for love, goes through all the drama that comes along with finding true love only to realize she need to love herself first.

If I Wuz Yo Gyrl - Coquie Hughes 75 min
An Experimental Work-In-Progress:
An urban drama about domestic violence between lesbiancouples

venues-TBA

for more information contact:
afrisistahs@bellsouth.net

ATLANTA 2004 Black Gay Pride ITIA UNITY

Atlanta Black Gay Pride 2004

EVENT

Wednesday – September 1st, 2004
Clubs & Parties
Bulldogs - 893 Peachtree Street FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

WassupnATL Bowling Party – Location TBA

Thursday – September 2nd, 2004
Registration
12:00PM - 10:00PM Host Hotel - Sheraton Colony Square Passes available for pickup or purchase (if available)

Candlelight Vigil - FREE
7:00PM- 10:00PM @ Studioplex - 659 Auburn Ave Celebrate the lives of friends and family who have transitioned to the next journey in their lives. Sponsored in part by Dekalb County Board of Health

ÀFRIsistahs & Roots & Rhythm presents See Us In The Life Film Festival
PT 1 – Location TBA Screening starts at 7:00PM prompt
$15.00 at the door - 30% discount with VIP All Access Pass

Clubs & Parties
Bulldogs - 893 Peachtree FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

Affair with Flair's 70's & 80's Black Pride Kickoff party – 8:00pm until @ Leopard Lounge 84 12th Street - $5.00 - FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

San Juan Brothas Welcome Reception - 9:00pm to 12:00AM @ WETbar - 960 Spring Street - $5.00 – FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

WassupnATL Welcome to Atlanta Party @ Club Colours – FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

Friday – September 3rd, 2004
Registration
10:00AM - 10:00PM Host Hotel - Sheraton Colony Square

VIP Reception
6:30PM - 7:00PM Grand Ballroom North – FREE
Hosted by Clikque Magazine, **this reception is for invited guests and media only.**

Meet & Greet - FREE
7:00PM - 7:30PM Grand Ballroom North – FREE
Appetizers and Cash Bar, Meet your friends, neighbors, and fellow brothers and sisters in our pre kick off social.

Opening Reception - FREE
7:30PM - 9:30PM Grand Ballroom North
Welcome from ITLA Board of Directors and official kick of. Celebrate the start of the weekend with musical and performance artists for your entertainment. Cash Bar

Welcome Party
11:00PM - 4:00AM Crown Room (27th Floor) - Host Hotel - An Evening of Color – Featuring the sounds of DJ Cedric

LISTINGS

Atlanta Premier of Noah's Arc + Q&A with Director and Cast - Sat Sept 4th 9:00PM Host Hotel

Black Pride Marketplace - FREE
4:00PM - 11:00PM Grand Ballroom South - Host Hotel - Featuring local and national community retailers, organizations, and allies offering unique gifts, merchandise, and information tailored just for you.

SpeakFire! - An evening of Erotica (open Mic)
12:00AM - 3:00AM - Host Hotel
Share your most innermost desires, dreams, and realities in an evening of erotic spoken word performance art. $8.00 (Free with VIP All Access or UNITY Pass)

Clubs & Parties
Bulldogs - 893 Peachtree Street FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

Affair with Flair's "The Silk Party" The sexiest upscale dance party in Atlanta with R&B recording artist, DJ, Buffet, and Door Prizes - 10:00pm until @ Silk – 919 Peachtree St - $15.00* - FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

My Sister's Room - 222 East Howard Decatur
FREE with your VIP All Access Pass
Saturday September 4th, 2004

Registration & Information
10:00AM - 10:00PM Host Hotel
Passes available for pickup or purchase (if available)

Black Pride Marketplace - FREE
10:00AM - 10:00PM Georgia Ballroom South
Featuring local and national community retailers, organizations, and allies offering unique gifts, merchandise, and information tailored just for you.

Community Luncheon and Panel discussion
11:30AM - 2:00PM $25.00 (Free with All Access VIP, UNITY, and Conference passes)

Workshop Series (Day one)
2:00PM - 6:00PM – Host Hotel

Health and Wellness Fair
12:00PM - 4:00PM - Grand Ballroom North
Learn about the health issues unique to African American men and women. Free health screenings for diabetes, hypertension (high blood pressure), referrals for STD and HIV testing, nutrition information, mental health, and holistic medicine. This health fair is intended to cover the whole you, from top to bottom to help you live healthy and happy

WassupnATL Pool Party – 418 Armour Drive
4:00PM - 8:00PM – (Metro Inn Conference Center Pool – behind the hotel)
(FREE)

Poetry Slam
6:00PM – 9:00PM Host Hotel
$5.00 (Free with VIP All Access or UNITY Pass)
(spoken word artist must register at the registration desk any time prior to 3:30PM)

ZAMI Presents: A Feast Of Kings: Girls Do Boys
9:00PM - Grand Ballroom North
(ZAMI's hosts it 3rd Annual Drag King Show benefiting its Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund)

IN THE LIFE ATLANTA **ADVERTISEMENT**

Atlanta Black Gay Pride 2004

EVENT LISTING

Couples' Meet/Greet Bash – Sponsored by Together In Love
7:00PM – 11:00PM – Host

Outdoor Activities – Piedmont Park
Spades Tournament – Sponsored by NetFlix – Park Pavilion
Volleyball Tournament – Location TBA 4:30pm to 7:30pm Dodge Ball Tournament – Location TBA 4:30pm to 7:30pm Tug-of-War – Location TBA – 4:30pm to 7:30pm

Clubs & Parties
Bulldogs - 893 Peachtree Street FREE with All Access Pass

WassupnATL True Pride Party @ Traxx – 339 Marietta St - 50% off with VIP All Access Pass

Affair with Flair's "Cherries & Berries" - R&B Recording artist, DJ, Buffet, and Door Prizes @ Cherry 1051 West Peachtree St. $15 or FREE with VIP All Access Pass

Sunday September 5th, 2004
Interfaith Worship Service - Free
11:00AM – 12:00PM - Host Hotel

Workshop Series (Continued)
2:00PM - 6:00PM
Black Pride Marketplace - Free
12:00PM - 6:00PM Georgia Ballroom South Featuring local and national community retailers, organizations, and allies offering unique gifts, merchandise, and information tailored just for you.

Literary Café
5:00PM - 7:00PM - Host Hotel
$5.00 Donation (Free with VIP All Access or UNITY Pass)

ÀFRIsistahs & Roots & Rhythm presents See Us In The Life Film Festival - PT 2 Location TBA
Doors open at 5:00pm Screening starts at 5:00 prompt
$15.00 at the door 30% discount with VIP All Access Pass

Newlywed Game – the Gay Version
6:00PM – Host Hotel - Hosted by Ms. Sophia McIntosh

The Famelee Affair Hip-Hop Concert
Presented by IMG Promotions
7:00pm – 10:30pm Location TBD
$5.00 (Free with VIP All Access Pass)

Outdoor Activities – Piedmont Park

Clubs & Parties
Bulldogs - 893 Peachtree St. FREE with your VIP All Access

My Sister's Room - 222 East Howard Decatur FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

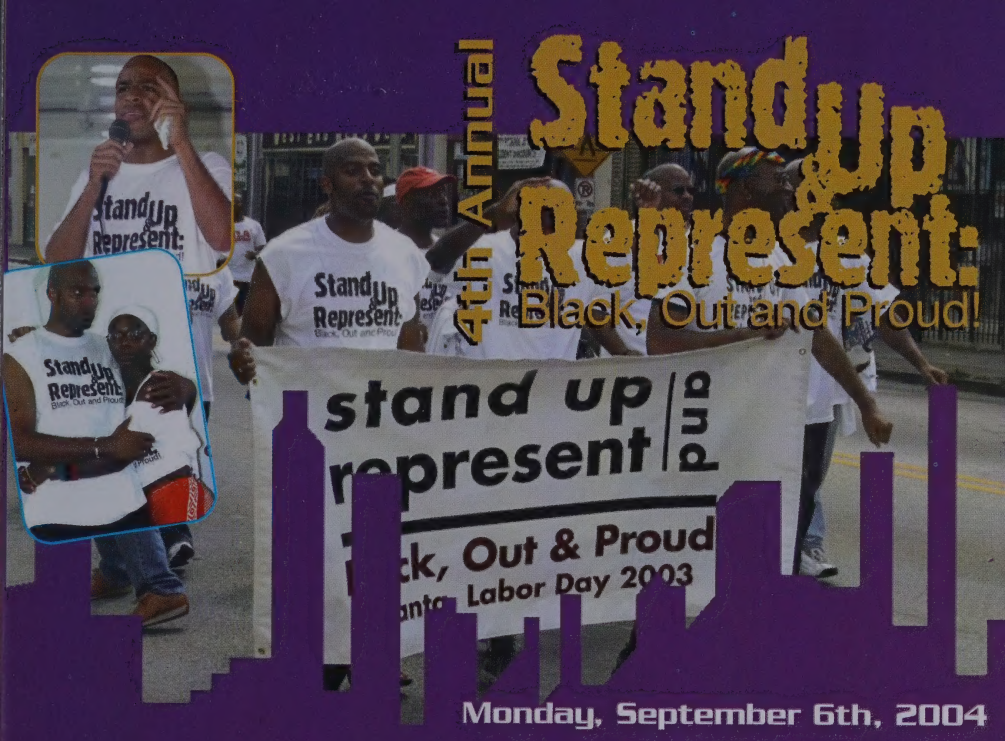
TRAXX - 339 Marietta St – 50% off with your VIP All Access Pass

Monday September 6th, 2004
3rd Annual Stand Up and Represent Black Gay Pride March and Rally
See www.inthelifeatl.com for assemble and step off times

3rd Annual Family Reunion Picnic – Piedmont Park- FREE
1:00PM - 5:00PM - Bring the kids, bring the parents, and bring the smiles as we celebrate the close of the Labor Day weekend as any extended family should!

Atlanta Black Gay Pride 2004 - Sponsors

ID ATLANTA
HORIZON
ATLANTA
Wyndham Hotels
David Atlanta Magazine
Affair With Flair
southern voice
Sheraton Colony Square
Elegante Magazine



Monday, September 6th, 2004

Join us as we make history while marching from the King Center through the historic Auburn Avenue area of Atlanta to the steps of the Georgia State Capitol. The Stand Up and Represent Black Gay Pride March returns to its original route, truly a celebration of our roots and growth.

Be a part of history and Stand Up and Represent!

Assemble: 10:00AM at The King Center 449 Auburn Ave. NE

ATLANTA 2004 Black Gay Pride ITIA UNITY

Pride on our side

After 11 years in the business, **TRAXX** Nightclub still remains one of the Nation's premiere entertainment spots for black gay men.

Humans have always been able to find a reason to party. Fortunately, because they are cutting edge, contemporary, yet classic, **Boone Management, Inc.**, has always managed to find a plethora of reasons to provide its patrons with an extraordinary time. Boone Management's festivities are dynamic and diverse expressions of what works. Boone Management, Inc., is a trendsetter which carries distinction in its hip pocket and as always will keep its audience captivated.

Boone Management, Inc., is a business of commitment, with over ten years of experience in the entertainment arena. They are one of the leaders of this industry and a major source of Atlanta's nightlife entertainment. According to CEO **Mr. Philip Boone**, they specialize in perfection and guarantee the delivery of incredible service. **Traxx Nightclub** was originally founded in 1985. During this era Traxx Nightclub, a.k.a. Boone Management, Inc., was known as **THE RITZBOYZ**. As The Ritzboyz, Boone Management, Inc., threw parties at various venues, clubs, and at home every Saturday Night. ***In fact, Home, Atlanta Overlook, Apt. K-11, is where the saga began.***

In 1989, the late **Mr. David Hampton** became the Manager of the **Phoenix** a.k.a. Traxx. When the Phoenix was closing its doors in 1993, Mr. Hampton and Mr. Boone ceased the opportunity to reopen the Phoenix as the **Legendary Traxx**.

Boone Management, Inc., was founded in Atlanta, GA in 1993, and is now one of, if not, the most popular gay African-American male production and promotion company in the

country. In 1984, Mr. Boone was the Room Service Manager for the Ritz Carlton. In 1986 he was the Banquet Captain for the Marriot Marquis. Of note is the extraordinary fact that Mr. Boone opened both establishments. Boone was the General Manager for Dante's Down The Hatch from 1986-1994. Mr. Phillip Boone, a Manager in Atlanta's thriving restaurant/hotel industry for over ten years, founded Boone Management, Inc. 11 years ago the doors to Traxx Nightclub opened offering customers a high energy, safe, and sexy environment for men who love to party with men.

Boone Management, Inc., prides itself on catering to every facet of the gay community. BMI provides a quality function and the fiercest music in the South.

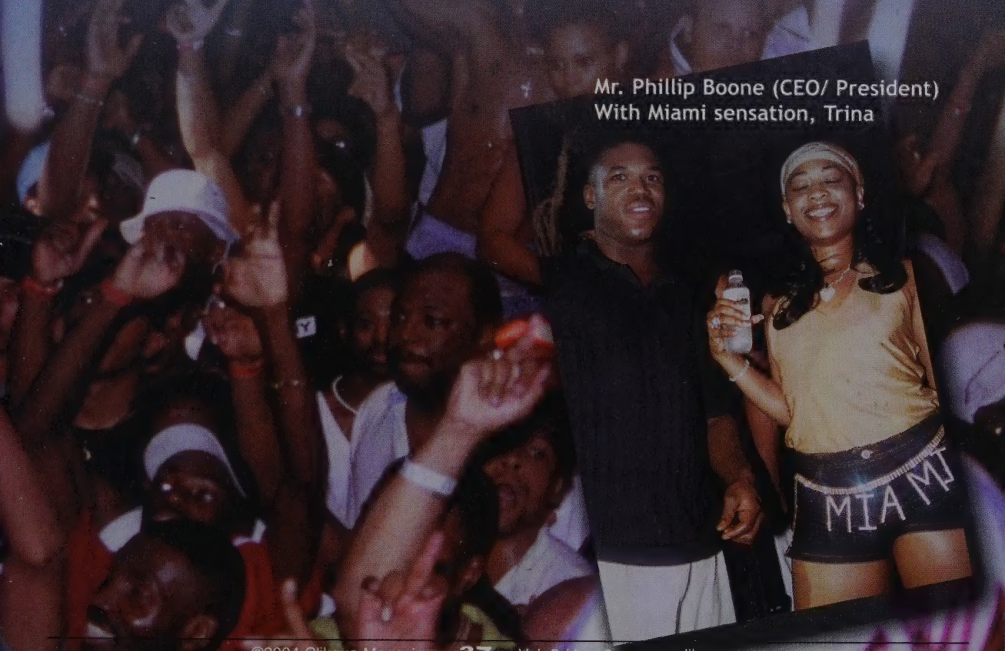
This company's pulsating vibes have electrified Atlanta, as well as party goers from the East to the West coast since 1993. **Foxy Brown, T.I., Crystal Waters, Biggie Smalls, Busta Rhymes, Nas, Total, Martha Wash, Tupac, Faith, Monica, Usher, Outkast, Keith Sweat, Da Brat, Mary J. Blige, Tribe Called Quest, Rakim, Kid Capri, and Biz Markie** are a few of the artist who have graced our stage with electrifying performances. Boone Management, Inc., (a.k.a. Traxx, Barcode, Warehouse, and the Ritzboyz) has stunned its listening and dancing audience over and over again.

Boone Management, Inc., not only prides itself on entertaining its community, but BMI also prides itself on educating, enlightening, and enhancing the community, by working with several organizations, such as: My Brother's Keeper, N.A.E.S.M., I.T.L.A., the AIDS Walk, most African-American Fraternities and Sororities, as well as many of the city's Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Mr. Boone is also a member of Atlanta Chamber of Commerce and the National Hotel/Restaurant Association.

Boone Management, Inc., is dedicated to entertaining and overwhelming its customers and will continue to do so in the future by hosting the hottest functions of the century. Catch Boone Management at work this Labor Day weekend in Atlanta GA at 306 Luckie St.

The dynamic Traxx team consists of
Mr. Phillip Boone (CEO/ President)
Mr. Homer Hammonds (General Mgr/P.R.)
Mr. Durand Robinson (Operations Manager)
Mr. Anthony Whitehead (Creative Director)
Mr. Gerald Thomas-"g" (Promotions/P.R.)



Mr. Phillip Boone (CEO/ President)
With Miami sensation, Trina

LABOR DAY '04 ~ TRAXX PRESENTS:

MERGE

"Bringing Men From Across The Nation Together"

SATURDAY, SEPT. 4, 2004

TRAXX PRESENTS:

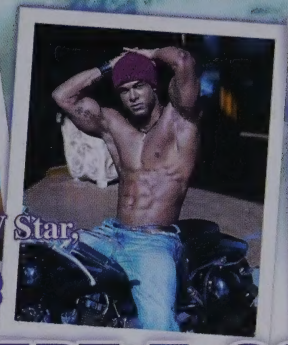
INTERGRATION

Join over 5,000 men partying to the hottest & hardest music, enveloped in a realm of temptation, seduced by the Nation's most alluring Go-Go Dancers and fueled by intoxicating drinks.

HIP-HOP MUSIC BY: HOT 107.9'S DJ TRUZ • DOORS OPEN @ 10PM

Your Host Movie & TV Star,

Lisa Raye



SUNDAY, SEPT. 5, 2004

TRAXX IN ASSOCIATION W/ N.A.E.S.M PRESENTS:

ALL OF US

TRAXX'S CELEBRATED POOL PARTY@ PIEDMONT PARK

Come get HOT, STICKY & WET with over 1,000 gorgeous men at the fiercest pool in HOTLANTA. Dive into the Olympic size pool. Be athletic at the tennis courts, baseball & soccer fields. Groove on the large dance floor to the hottest Hip-Hop music. GUARANTEED a Fabuous time rain or shine. Plus a Fabulous firework display.

OPEN BAR 3-4PM • FREE BAR-B-QUE • DOORS OPEN @ 2PM • PIEDMONT PARK

MONDAY, SEPT. 6, 2004

"MONDAY NIGHT WITH THE STARS OF THE CENTURY"

BLEND

Hosted by the witty, Dominique Rashad

Starring: Niesha Dupree, Raquel Lord, Stasha Sanchez, Jasmine Bonet, Necole Luv Dupree, Tamisha Iman, Archie Bonet, Monte St. James, R'Darius Black and a host of celebrity guests.

Limited Table Reservation.

Please contact Felicia @ 404.681.4422 after 3pm on Mon., Sept. 6th

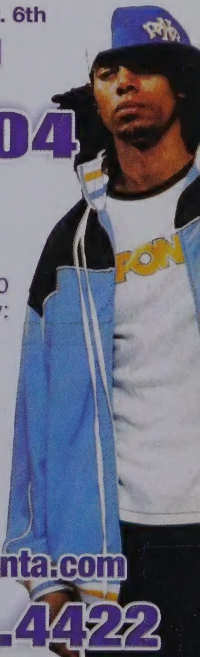
DOORS OPEN @ 10PM • SHOW STARTS @ 12AM

TUESDAY, SEPT. 7, 2004

"THE HIP-HOP PHENOMENON"

MIX

Don't miss the culminating party of the year! Join over 2,000 men partying until dawn to the hard hitting hip-hop beats by: **Hot 107.9's DJ Truz.**



$2 BUDWEISERS • DOORS OPEN @ 11PM

*PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL OF ATLANTA'S CLUBS CLOSE @ 2:30AM SO GET THERE EARLY! DON'T MISS THE AFTER HOUR FUNCTIONS

traxxatlanta@hotmail.com • www.traxxatlanta.com

306 LUCKIE ST. • 404.681.4422

XTREME ENTERTA

BLACK

MEGA PART

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2004

THE MASQUERADE
695 NORTH AVE. NE
ATLANTA, GA 30308
DOORS OPEN 9PM – UNTIL

FEATURING: 3 DANCE FLOORS
SURPRISE PERFORMANCE BY NATIONAL RECORDING ARTIST(S)
THE SEXIEST ANGELS, THE SEXIEST STRIPPERS, AND THE SEXIEST BOYS ALIVE
MUSIC BY DJ SEDRICK, SHOWS & SPECIAL GUEST DJ AND MORE....

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 200

XTREME ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS
ROCKMOND DUNBAR
OF THE CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED SHOWTIME ORIGINAL SERIES "SOUL FOO
AND STAR OF THE INDIE FILM "PUNKS"

THE LIONS DEN
"WET DREAM" POOL PART

Wyndham Atlanta Hotel Downtown Atlanta
160 Spring Street NW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Doors Open 6PM - Until

ALSO FEATURING
6 OF THE SEXIEST HOT BOY DANCERS
AND INTRODUCING THE 2005 LIONS DEN CALENDAR MODELS
"TOP-N-BOTTOMS" FASHION SHOW, SPECIAL SHOWING OF "PUNK
MUSIC BY DJ JFK & DJ SEDRICK
YOU'VE NEVER HAD A WET DREAM LIKE THIS!

www.xtremeentert

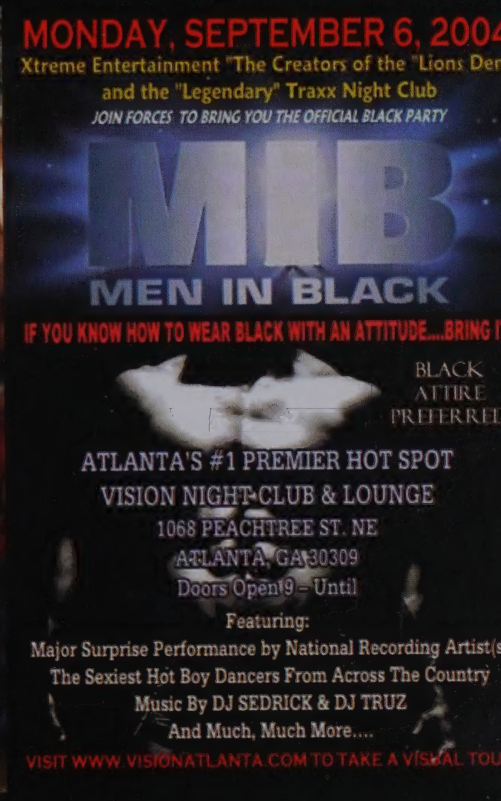
User Name "xtreme"

Info Line: (770) 991-6929

IMENT PRESENTS

PRIDE
Y WEEKEND

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2004
THE ULTIMATE, THE BIGGEST, WEEKEND PARTY
THE LIONS DEN
"EROTIC FESTIVAL"
Featuring: 3 Dance Floors
Out Door Festival
Vendors
Surprise Performance by National Recording Artists
The Sexiest Strippers Alive
Shows and More....
@
THE MASQUERADE
695 NORTH AVE. NE
ATLANTA, GA 30308
DOORS OPEN 6PM - UNTIL
IF YOU THOUGHT THAT LAST YEAR WAS "OFF THE CHAIN"
WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE WHAT WE'VE GOT IN STORE FOR YOU!
THIS PARTY IS SO BIG WE HAD TO MOVE TO A LARGER LOCATION!
Accepting Vendor Applications for Festival
Contact Xtreme @ 770-991-6929


MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2004
Xtreme Entertainment "The Creators of the "Lions Den
and the "Legendary" Traxx Night Club
JOIN FORCES TO BRING YOU THE OFFICIAL BLACK PARTY
MIB
MEN IN BLACK
IF YOU KNOW HOW TO WEAR BLACK WITH AN ATTITUDE....BRING I
BLACK
ATTIRE
PREFERRE
ATLANTA'S #1 PREMIER HOT SPOT
VISION NIGHT CLUB & LOUNGE
1068 PEACHTREE ST. NE
ATLANTA, GA 30309
Doors Open 9 - Until
Featuring:
Major Surprise Performance by National Recording Artist(s
The Sexiest Hot Boy Dancers From Across The Country
Music By DJ SEDRICK & DJ TRUZ
And Much, Much More....
VISIT WWW.VISIONATLANTA.COM TO TAKE A VISUAL TOU

inmentatlanta.com

Password: "nightlife"

Email: XtremeIII@aol.com

XTREME ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

BLACK PRIDE MEGA PARTY WEEKEND

THE PLACE TO STAY THIS LABOR DAY WEEKEND IS THE WYNDHAM ATLANTA HOTEL IN DOWNTOWN ATLANTA.

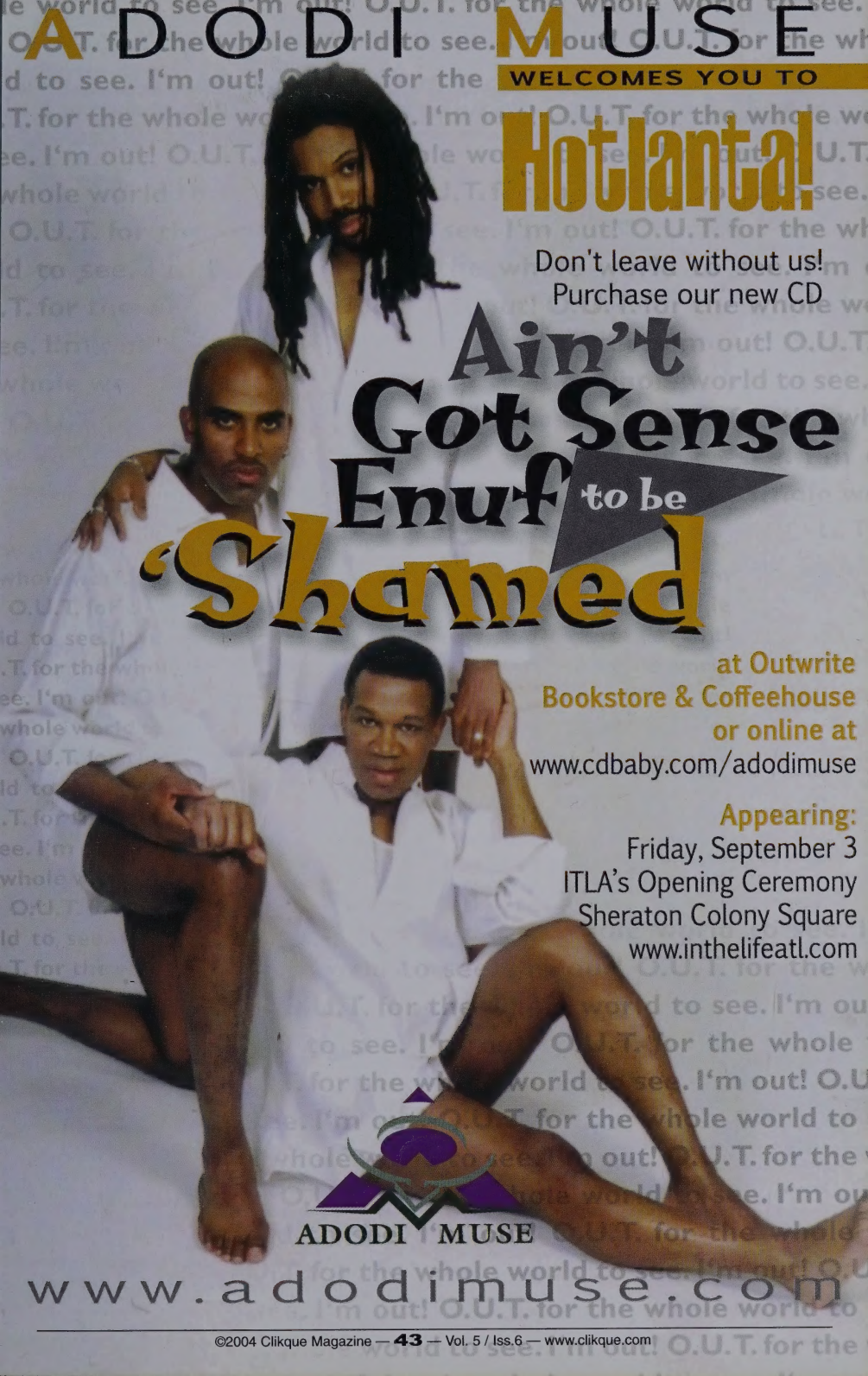
WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US AND
ROCKMOND
IN OUR WET DREAM
XTREME ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS
ROCKMOND
DUNBAR
OF THE CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED SHOWTIME ORIGINAL SERIES "SOUL FOOD"
AND STAR OF THE INDIE FILM "PUNKS"
THE LIONS DEN
"WET DREAM" POOL PARTY
ALSO FEATURING
6 OF THE SEXIEST HOT BOY DANCERS
AND INTRODUCING THE 2005 LIONS DEN CALENDAR MODELS
YOU'VE NEVER HAD A WET DREAM LIKE THIS
User Name "xtreme" / Password "nightlife"
Info Line: (770) 991-6929 / Email: Xtremelll@aol.com

The Wyndham Atlanta Hotel Downtown Atlanta is the Official Host Hotel for Xtreme Entertainment and the Lions Den and the location spot for the The Lions Den "Wet Dream" Pool Party, Featuring ROCKMUND DUNBAR, Star of the critically acclaimed Showtime Original Series "Soul Food" and the Star of the indie film "Punks"

For all Xtreme Entertainment and Lion's Den Guests the Wyndham has made the following accommodations:

Deluxe Rooms available for only
$65.00
Suites available for only
$116.00

In order to take advantage of these incredible SPECIAL rates just call the Wyndham Atlanta Hotel in Downtown Atlanta at (404) 688-8600, or (800) 996-3426, or by contacting Wyndham at me or Lions Den Group rate member.
The deadline for reserving rooms at this Special Rate is 12:01 am, Wednesday September 1, 2004, so make your reservations right away while rooms last..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Hotlanta!
Don't leave without us!
Purchase our new CD
Ain't Got Sense Enuf to be 'Shamed
at Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse or online at
www.cdbaby.com/adodimuse
Appearing:
Friday, September 3
ITLA's Opening Ceremony
Sheraton Colony Square
www.inthelifeatl.com
ADODI MUSE
www.adodimuse.com

We are Every Where. Clikque Magazine is **FREE** at most locations, except select bookstores. Look For Us At One Of These Locations. If you're not on our list, please give us a call and we can see about having you added as a **Clikque Magazine Distribution Point.** (Sorted by State)

Establishment	Street	City	St.	Tel#
Flex Baths	1517 South Canyon Hwy	Phoenix	AZ	602-271-9011
Flex Baths	4424 Melrose Ave	Los Angeles	CA	323-663-7786
The Open Book Ltd.	910 21st St.	Sacramento	CA	916-498-1004
Castro Smoke House	409 Castro	San Francisco	CA	415-552-7411
Jaguar Bookstore	4057 18th St	San Francisco	CA	415-863-4777
LAMBDA RISING	1625 Connecticut	Washington	DC	202-462-7257
LAMBDA RISING	39 Baltimore Ave	Rehoboth Bch	DE	302-227-6969
The Copa	2800 S Federal Hwy	Ft Lauderdale	FL	954-463-1507
Boom	2236 Wilton Drive	Ft Lauderdale	Fl	954-630-3556
Catalog X treme	850NE 13th St.	Ft Lauderdale	Fl	305-524-5050
Club Colesium	2520 South Miami Road	Ft Lauderdale	Fl	954-832-0100
Club Ft. Lauderdale	110 NW 5th Ave.	Ft Lauderdale	Fl	954-525-3344
Pride Factory	845 N Federal Hwy	Ft Lauderdale	Fl	954-463-6600
Statscript Pharmacy	2605 N Dixie Hwy	Ft Lauderdale	Fl	954-568-3789
Care Resource	3510 Biscayne Blve #300	Miami	Fl	305-576-1234
Club Boi - Miami	728 NW 79th Street	Miami	Fl	305-826-8995
EmpowerU	8309 NW 22nd Ave	Miami	Fl	
Lambda Passages	7545 Biscayne Blvd	Miami	Fl	305-754-6900
South Beach AIDS Project	306 Lincoln Road	Miami	Fl	305-532-1033
Sugars	17060 West Dixie Hwy	Miami	Fl	305-940-9887
United Foundation For AIDS	660 NE 125th St.	Miami	Fl	305-981-7907
Statscript Pharmacy	1669 Meridian Avenue	Miami Beach	Fl	305-534-1980
Miracle Of Love Inc	1800 Mercy Dr. Suite 300	Orlando	Fl	407-445-6008
Rainbow City Inc.	936 N. Mills Ave	Orlando	Fl	407-898-6096
Statscript Pharmacy	942 N Mills Ave	Orlando	Fl	407-897-5292
The Parliament House	410 N Orange Blos Trl	Orlando	Fl	407-425-7571
Palace Food Bar	1200 Ocean Drive	South Beach	Fl	305-531-72343
Twist	1057 Washington Avenue	South Beach	Fl	
Statscript Pharmacy	401 First Avenue North	St. Petersburg	Fl	727-896-7828
Statscript Pharmacy	3609 Henderson Blvd	Tampa	Fl	813-354-3883
Tomes & Treasures	406-408 S Howard Ave.	Tampa	Fl	813-241-9368
Statscript Pharmacy	2541 Metrocenter Blvd # 5WPB		Fl	561-683-0001
AID Atlanta	1348 W Peachtree Street	Atlanta	Ga	404-870-7740
AIDS Survival Project	139 Ralph McGill	Atlanta	Ga	
Atlanta Eagle	306 Ponce De Leon Ave	Atlanta	Ga	404-873-2453
Boy Next Door	1447 Piedmont Ave Av	Atlanta	Ga	404-873-2664
Brushstrokes	1510 Piedmont Ave. NE	Atlanta	Ga	400-876-6567
Bulldogs	893 Peachtree Street	Atlanta	Ga	404-872-3025
Burkharts	1492-F Piedmont Rd	Atlanta	Ga	
Chapter 11 Bookstore		Atlanta	Ga	
Club 708	708 Spring Street	Atlanta	Ga	404-874-8125
Club Colours	1510 Piedmont Ave	Atlanta	Ga	404-724-0611
Flex Baths	76 4th Street NW	Atlanta	Ga	404-815-0456
Hudson Medical	735 Piedmont Ave NE	Atlanta	Ga	404-881-6910
Outwrite Bookstore	991 Piedmont Avenue	Atlanta	Ga	404-607-0082
Positive Impact	139 Ralph McGill	Atlanta	Ga	
Pride Medical	3280 Howell Mill Rd.	Atlanta	Ga	404-355-3788
Statscript Pharmacy	1027 Monroe Drive NE	Atlanta	Ga	404-733-6800
The Chaparral	2715 Bufort Highway	Atlanta	Ga	404-634-3737
The Lion's Den	735 Ralph McGill	Atlanta	Ga	770-991-6929
Traxx Nightclub	306 Luckie Street	Atlanta	Ga	404-681-4422

Establishment	Street	City	St.	Tel#
Universal Gear	935 Peachtree Street	Atlanta	Ga	404-872-5700
Club Rails	1675 N Elston Ave	Chicago	IL	
Unabridged Bookstore		Chicago	IL	312-883-9119
Out Of Bounds	Answering Machine	Indianapolis	IN	650-327-6325
Flex Baths	700 Baronne Street	New Orleans	LA	504-598-3539
Movie Place	526 Trailmont St.	Boston	MA	617-482-9008
We Think The World...	540 Tremont St.	Boston	MA	617-574-5000
LAMBDA RISING	241 West Chase St	Baltimore	MD	410-234-0069
The Paradox	1310 Russell Street	Baltimore	MD	410-837-9110
Commmon Language	215 S. 4th Ave.	Ann Arbor	MI	
Triangle World		Kalamazoo	MI	
Chosen Books	120 W 4th St	Royal Oaks	MI	248-543-5758
Rainbow Road	109 W Grant St.	Minneapolis	MN	612-872-8448
Club City Lights / 601	200 North Mill Road	Jackson	MS	601-353-0059
White Rabit Bookstore	1401 CENTRAL AVE	Charlotte	NC	
White Rabit Bookstore	309 WEST MARTIN	Raliegh	NC	
People Of Color In Crisis	468 Bergen Street	Brooklyn	NY	718-230-0770
Creative Visions	548 Hudson St.	New York City	NY	212-255-5756
ETC Distributors		New York City	NY	212-675-7952
Global News	22 8th Avenue	New York City	NY	212-645-1197
OSCAR WILDE	15 Christopher Street	New York City	NY	212-255-8097
Barrister's Mt. Vernon		Rochester	NY	716-242-7840
HUSTLER	411 ELM ST	Cincinnatti	OH	
Pink Pyrmid	Answering Machine	Cincinnatti	OH	513-621-4765
Body Language		Cleveland	OH	216-651-3330
Flex Baths	2600 Hamilton	Cleveland	OH	216-420-3539
Flex Baths	1567 E Livingston	Columbus	OH	614-252-0730
GIOVANNI'S ROOM	345 South 12th St	Philadelphia	PA	215-923-2960
Out Word Bound	Answering Machine	Ashville	SC	317-951-9100
Club Allusions	456 Madison Street	Memphis	TN	901-357-8383
The Paragon	2865 Wallnut Grove Road	Memphis	TN	901-320-0026
Brothers United	209 10th Ave South, # 160	Nashville	TN	800 845-4266
Metro News Adult Books	822 5th Avenue South	Nashville	TN	
Outloud Books & Gifts	1709 Church Street	Nashville	TN	615-340-0034
Tapelenders Video	Wrong Number	Austin	TX	214-219-5500
Crossroads Market	3930 Cedar Springs	Dallas	TX	214-521-8919
ELM & PEARL / METRO	2204 Elm Street	Dallas	TX	214-741-0000
Hollywood Foodstores	2501 Montrose St.	Dallas	TX	713-524-7052
Renaissance III	2606 MLK Blvd	Dallas	TX	214-428-6227
The Brick		Dallas	TX	
Crossroads Market		Houston	TX	
YMSM Drop-In Center	1403 Wheeler	Houston	TX	713-526-1979
Encore Video One	1031NE Loop 410	San Antonio	TX	210-821-5345
LAMBDA RISING	322 West 21st St	Norfolk	VA	757-626-0969
Club Colours	536 N Harrison St	Richmond	VA	804-353-7740
PHONENIX RISING	19 North Belmont Ave.	Richmond	VA	
BEYOND THE CLOSET	518 EAST PIKE STREET.	Seattle	WA	

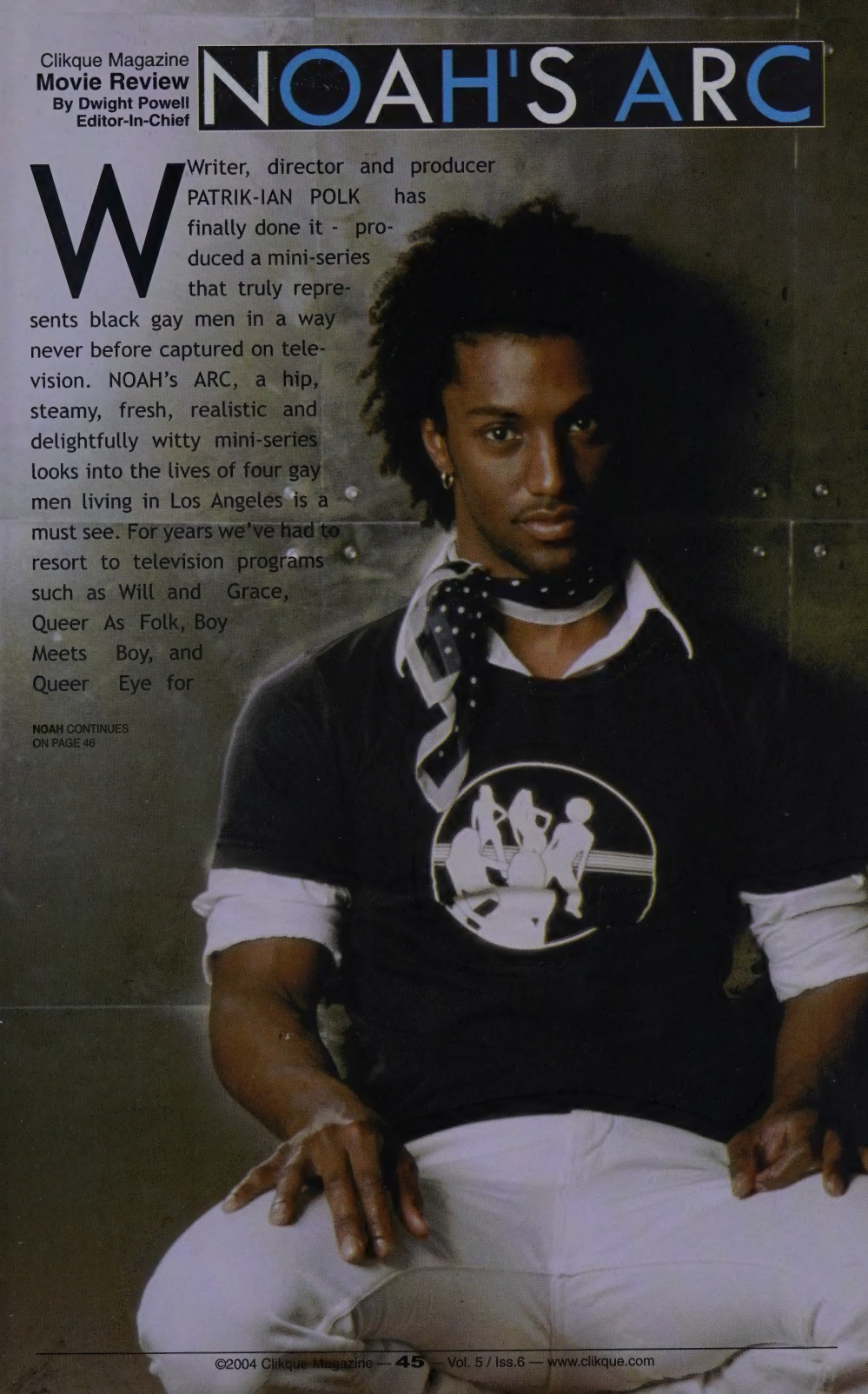
We are updating this list daily. Please check our website for up-to-date information. www.clikque.com

Clikque Magazine
Movie Review
By Dwight Powell
Editor-In-Chief

NOAH'S ARC

Writer, director and producer PATRIK-IAN POLK has finally done it - produced a mini-series that truly represents black gay men in a way never before captured on television. NOAH's ARC, a hip, steamy, fresh, realistic and delightfully witty mini-series looks into the lives of four gay men living in Los Angeles is a must see. For years we've had to resort to television programs such as Will and Grace, Queer As Folk, Boy Meets Boy, and Queer Eye for

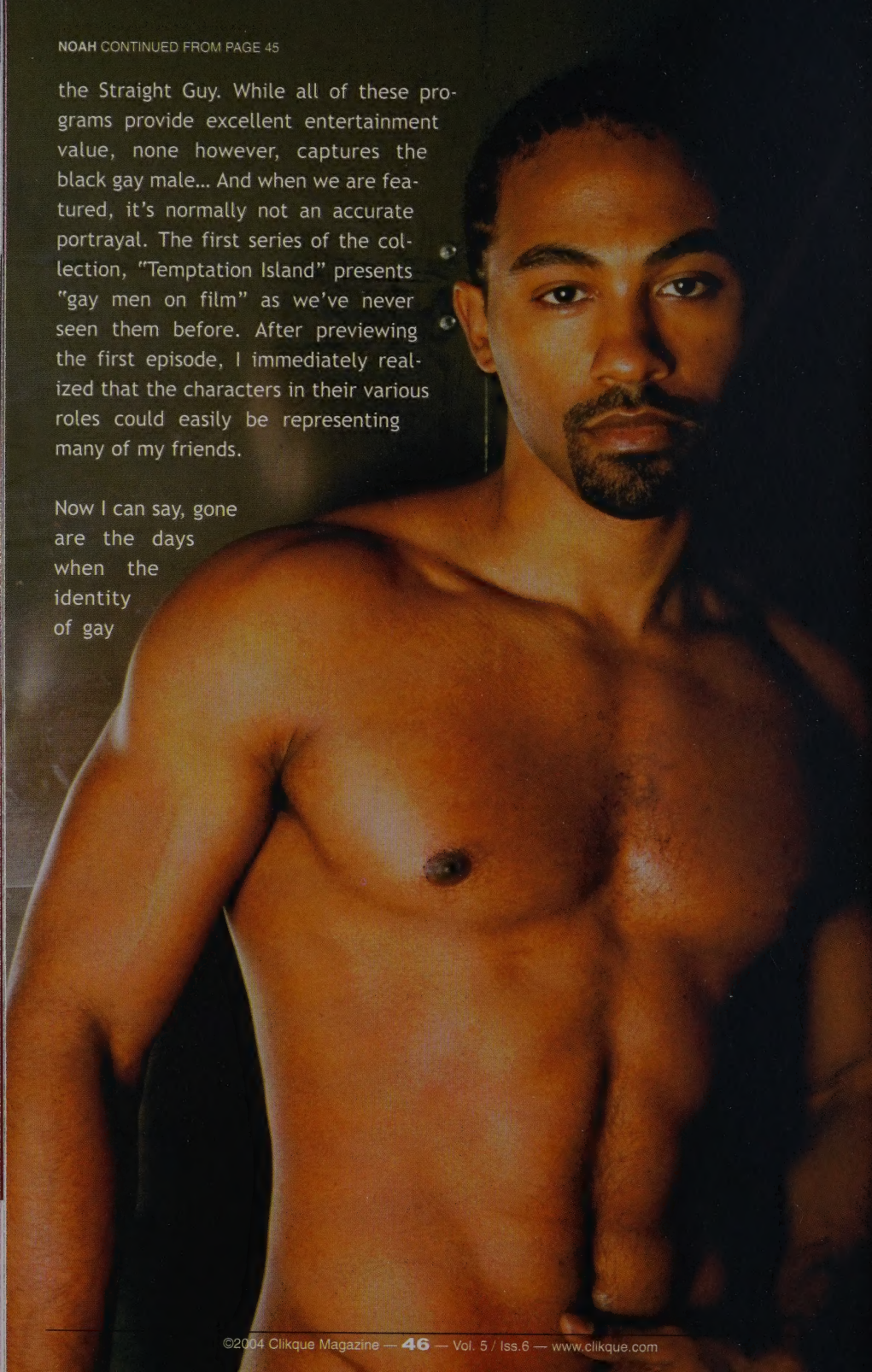
NOAH CONTINUES ON PAGE 46



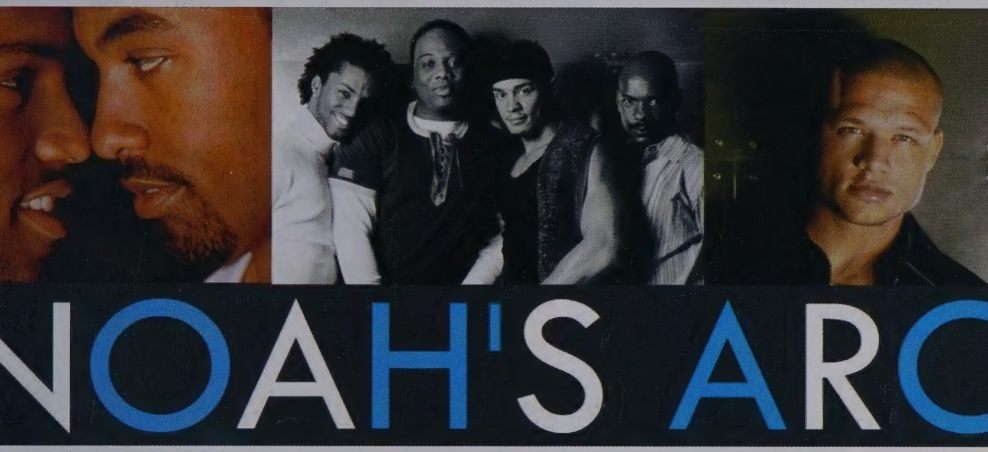
NOAH CONTINUED FROM PAGE 45

the Straight Guy. While all of these programs provide excellent entertainment value, none however, captures the black gay male... And when we are featured, it's normally not an accurate portrayal. The first series of the collection, "Temptation Island" presents "gay men on film" as we've never seen them before. After previewing the first episode, I immediately realized that the characters in their various roles could easily be representing many of my friends.

Now I can say, gone are the days when the identity of gay



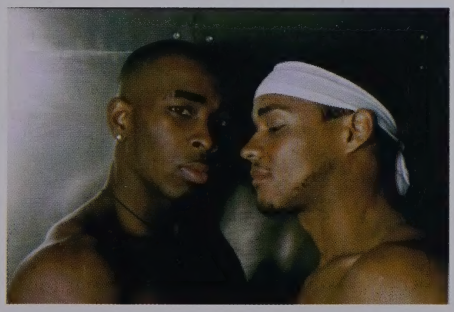
black men is imaged from those of white gay men on television. Polk, with this mini-series, is out to set the record straight that not all gay people are white. Described as Sex and the City meets Queer As Folk and together crashing into Soul Food, NOAH'S ARC provides a venue for gay black men to have a voice and for the first time, show the world the true faces of black gay men, whether they be gay, bi and or most importantly, on the down low. Although the first episode was heavy on sexuality, I am convinced and hopeful that the writers and producers will mix-in a lot of our day-to-day, ordinary experiences that's not framed around our sex lives.



NOAH's ARC is a hip, steamy, fresh, real and delightfully witty mini-series that's definitely a must see.
— *Dwight Powell*, Editor-In-Chief, Clikque Magazine

SYNOPSIS

Noah, Alex, Ricky and Chance are four friends living the gay life in Los Angeles. Noah (Darryl Stephens) is a struggling screenwriter embarking on a new love affair with newly out and much more successful screenwriter, Wade. HIV/AIDS counselor Alex (Rodney Chester) always keep it real with his clients but struggles to do the same with his anesthesiologist boyfriend, Trey (Gregory Keith). Ricky (Christian Vincent) owns a trendy and hip clothing store on Melrose and is the playboy of the group, while college professor Chance (Doug Spearman) has recently married and adopted his partner Eddie's (Jonathan Julian) three year old daughter after a world-wind courtship. Throw in Chance's amorous teaching assistant, Bryan (Johnny Smith), Ricky's hot, new store clerk, Dwayne (Nate Adams) and flamboyantly fabulous fashion designer Romeo (Dwen Curry) and you've got a recipe for delicious drama, side-splitting comedy and shocking sexuality.



Written By Daniel Vaillancourt

IS THREE A CROWD?

For four of the six years Robert and Dan have been together, they've slept with other men -- but neither has ever cheated on the other. The pair has an open relationship that works. "Never in those first couple of years could we ever imagine coming to this kind of agreement," admits Robert, 29, a restaurant manager in West Hollywood. "But we can't base a relationship -- for us -- on monogamy. If you love each other, sex on the side is just that -- sex."

Robert and Dan's situation is different from secretly having sex with other people, or having an unspoken understanding that occasional "cheating" is OK. Robert and Dan share an agreement that is largely based on communication and honesty.

"I think honesty is more important than anything," maintains Robert, who believes his relationship with Dan is healthier thanks to the guilt each avoids by refusing to be furtively adulterous. "I think we all have other attractions out there, so you might as well be honest and up-front about it."

Not that Robert thinks open relationships are for everybody. "My attitude is that whatever works for two people is the most important thing," he says. "People who criticize [open relationships] are usually the people who are dishonest and doing it behind each other's back, which is much more harmful."

What the 'Sexperts' Say

"Sexual tolerance and flexibility are some of the things that set gay men apart from straight ones," says New York City-based Daniel Wolfe, author of "Men Like Us: The GMHC Complete Guide to Gay Men's Sexual, Physical, and Emotional Well-Being." In some cases, he adds, that can mean successful, healthy, non-monogamy.

"With some exceptions, I believe sexually exclusive partnerships work best for most people," counters Betty Berzon, PhD, author of the bestselling "Permanent Partners," in her follow-up book, "The Intimacy Dance: A Guide to Long-Term Success in Gay and Lesbian Relationships." She writes: "There is a kind of affirmation that comes from being with a lover long-term, building a life, growing closer, and finding deeper levels of intimacy and new ways to please one another sexually."

Still, Berzon -- an L.A.-based activist and psychotherapist who has been counseling gay men, lesbians, and same-sex couples for decades -- understands that the above paradigm isn't suitable in all cases. "The key to making non-monogamy work, when it does," she writes, "seems to be mutually agreeing on the rules and sticking to them."

"Trouble comes when one person has a different understanding than the other about what's expected," adds Wolfe. "Try to be realistic about how much honesty is possible between you by seeing how you handle non-sexual matters. If you make up excuses or fudge on the details when you forget to bring home the dry cleaning, then it's probably not a good idea to foray into the confusing waters of non-monogamy," he says.

Making Up the Rules

"Our supposed rules are never the same person twice, no phone numbers, and discretion," reveals Robert, adding that the couple has a "don't ask, don't tell" policy concerning dalliances. "But I always ask because I always want to know. Sometimes Dan tells, but he never asks me."

The two most common rules governing open relationships are that safer sex precautions should always be taken, and that there be no emotional involvement. Here are a Top Ten list of other issues to consider:

1. Should our open relationship be "don't ask, don't tell," "say everything," or somewhere in between?
2. How intimate should outside sex be? Is mutual JO the only activity allowed? What about oral sex? Anal sex? Kissing?
3. What about three-ways? Nothing but? Never? Now and then?
4. Where can outside sex take place? Anywhere, or are recreational couplings only allowed in sex clubs, bathhouses, gym steam rooms and saunas, and rest rooms? What about in someone else's home or hotel room? In our home? In our bed?
5. Is making "sex dates" allowed, or can escapades only occur spontaneously?
6. What about overnights?
7. When is outside sex allowed? Any time, or just when one partner is out of town, on vacation, etc.? Is it OK for outside sex to interfere with planned or habitual "couple" time?
8. Is sex with mutual friends or acquaintances allowed?

IS THREE A CROWD? CONTINUES ON PAGE 50

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 49

9 Is our relationship to be considered open until further discussion, or should we proceed on a case-by-case basis, discussing -- and permitting -- each "affair" to take place as opportunities present themselves?

10 How open will we be with family and friends about your open relationship?

Keep the Communication Flowing

"Once you do it, you can't go back," says Robert. Still, things happen, mistakes are made, needs change. Don't be afraid to revisit the issues -- and to reinvent the rules -- as needed.

"Every relationship that's alive requires renegotiating at times," warns Wolfe. "As for what happens when one of you falls harder than anticipated for someone else, or when something's not working, the solution returns to the bedrock of any successful coupling: daring to talk about it, and appreciating how "edgy" it can all feel. Remember, straight people provided us with lots of models for adultery, but few for genuine, open relationships.

Remember Safer Sex

One of the many benefits of a monogamous relationship is the reduced risk of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). "The more partners you have, the higher your risk for STDs. While you may only have one fuck buddy, how many does your partner have," he says. That is why it is so important you practice safer sex.

If you think you might have an STD, you owe it to your partner and yourself to get treated immediately. Don't put off going to the doctor because you are too embarrassed or worried about what your partner will think. Remember, if you have unprotected sex with your primary partner and protected sex during outside encounters, you can still get an STD.

*Web*Discussion

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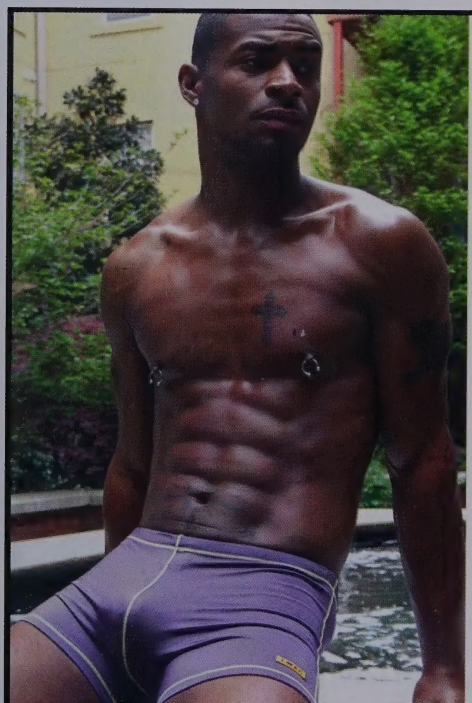

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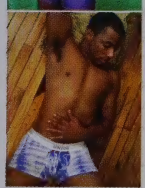
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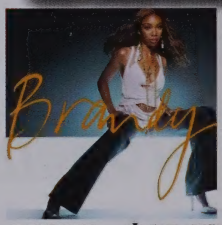

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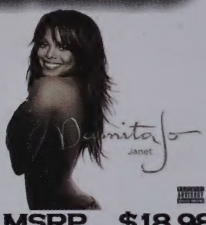

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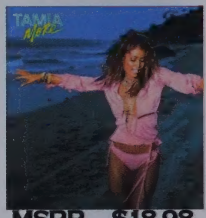

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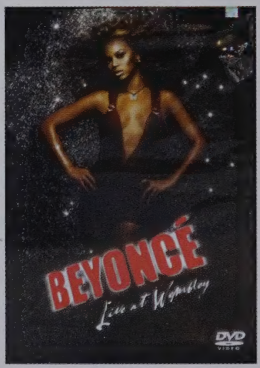

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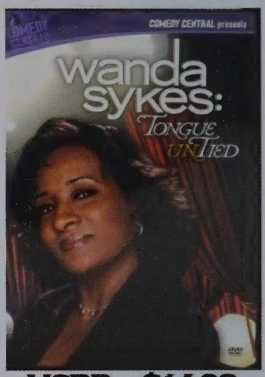

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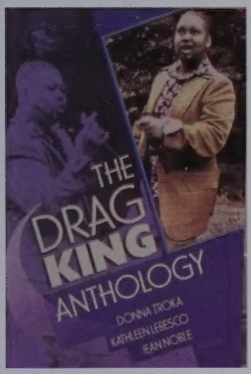

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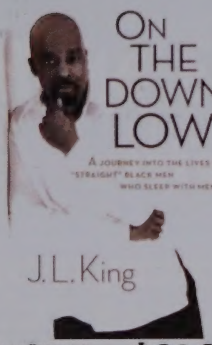

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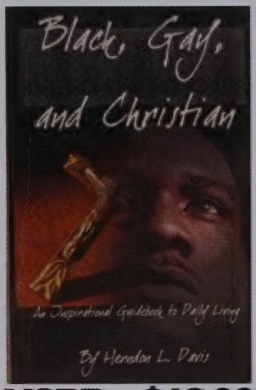

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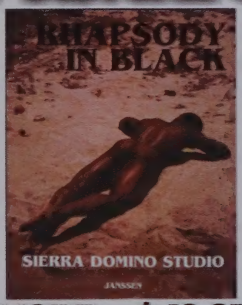

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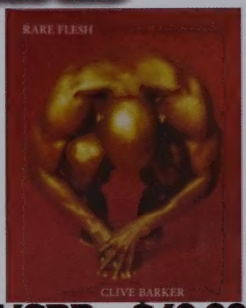

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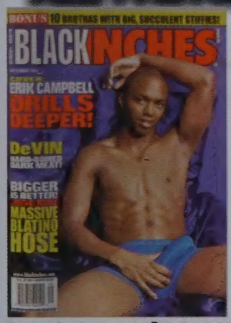

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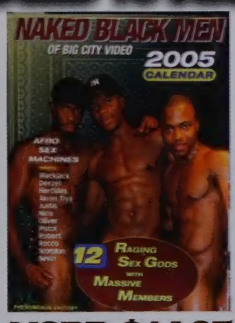

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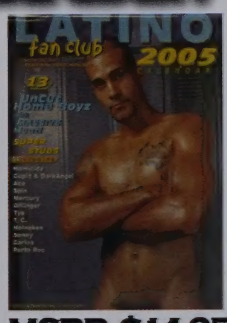

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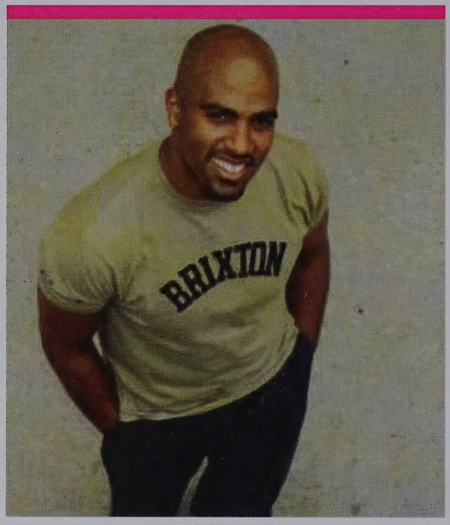
ASS REMIXED

AN INTERVIEW WITH ANTHONY ANTOINE

By Craig Washington

Anthony Antoine, who turned heads when he flipped pronouns with the openly gay themed "Dante's Got A Man", is back at it again with a sizzling late summer release, the delicious "Ass" single and remixes. "Ass" is a steamy tale about boy meets boy with greater booty that features some of the hottest pillow talk since Prince's "Do Me Baby." Standouts include a "Bottom or Top" remix laid on top of Missy's "Work It" and a bold Kellis remake "The Boy Milkshake Song". Anthony



Antoine sets new standards of hip hop realness by addressing love, lust and romance between men and up ending dominant attitudes about what it means to be a man. Bringing provocative lyrics, tight hip hop and house flavored hooks, and a range of delivery styles (sometimes intense, sometimes playful, always sexy), Anthony Antoine delivers the goods without compromising the music for the sake of the message.

He has been either performing or producing music for over 15 years and has developed a distinctive vision and the chops to convey it. Back in the 80's the then seventeen year old moved to London where he played with Paul Hardcastle ("19") and garnered an international dance hit "Swing" with The Deff Boyz. He later released two singles including "Under Your Spell" with noted jazz artist Ronny Jordan and performed as an opening act for C&C Music Factory. Since his move to Atlanta in 1999, the Newark native achieved local celebrity status as an independent artist who also performs with Adodi Muse, the self described gay Negro ensemble. It was "Dante" (which received major play throughout the national club circuit) that distinguished Anthony Antoine as an original, one who stood apart from the rest of the hip hop/pop/r&b pack.

I lunched with the dangerously handsome performer to talk about his music and his message and as I anticipated he had a lot to say.

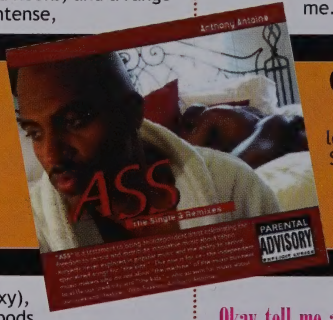
What moved you to do "Ass" (asked with a straight face)?
It's exactly what I wanted to say, I didn't filter it. It's unapologetic. A celebration of being an independent artist. Too often we don't hear our stories told over music.

One of my favorite cuts are "Don'tUEva", your response to hip hop homophobes. And "Curiosity and The Hennessy," you know you have to talk about that.
That was about giving something for the kids that love hip hop. Then hip hop is thought of as hard. As an openly gay artist, I wouldn't be expected to do that and have it carry. That I could create a song in that vein surprised me. "Curiosity and The Hennessy" is my favorite song I've ever written. It's about a man who keeps showing up at my door and says he's not gay. The excuse is the alcohol. "What's up with you and me is a secret I can keep. Call it whatever you please. It's okay with me. Blame the Hennessy"

Okay tell me about "I Got The Moves" which features baby, baby daddy and baby mama.
Vogue was 11 when we recorded it. Dana is my baby mama and my best friend. Vogue my daughter

ANTHONY CONTINUES ON PAGE 57

MUSIC



"Ass" is a steamy tale about boy meets boy with greater booty that features some of the hottest pillow talk since Prince's "Do Me Baby." Standouts include a "Bottom or Top" remix laid on top of Missy's "Work It" and a bold Kellis remake "The Boy Milkshake Song"

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HIV: Absolutely, same place and time?

Syphilis: Yep, just follow my lead.

HIV: I try my best, lol.

PnPTina: Hey Boys, can I join in ?

HIV: Hell yeah Tina, you're always welcome to further the cause, lol.

>>>>> End of Chat Sequence <<<<<

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HEALTH

BROTHER TO BROTHER

Written By Craig Washington

Mr. Washington was lovingly raised by Anna and Leon Washington in Queens, New York and has lived in Atlanta for 11 years. His writings have been published in Clikque, Venus, Arise, Washington Blade, Southern Voice, Atlanta Voice, Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He currently serves as the Volunteer and Training Coordinator for Positive Impact, which provides mental health services for people affected by HIV. He can be reached at cwash360@cs.com.

"Who can love the perfect love, never short or thin?"

Nona Hendics

My earliest memory is a faded picture etched on the underside of my eyelids. I can only see it when I close my eyes and concentrate. Only then will the submerged image float up to the surface and sharpen. It is then I see him as always. His arm stretched just above my head. A giant door opens before me and I walk through. Then it fades out, like a 10 second clip from a fuzzy silent movie. No matter how many times I replay it, it always ends before we get outside. My brother and I. I only know for sure that we are going somewhere together and he is holding the door for me. I figure that I must have been small and very young because the handle is much taller than me.

Through hindsight, I can piece together where we may have been headed. The hallway outside of our one bedroom apartment opened out to Northern Boulevard, the main street of Corona, a small Queens neighborhood where I lived the first seven years of my life. Corona was a mix of blacks, Italians, Jews, and Puerto Ricans that at least tolerated each other well. It had been a haven for black musicians since the forties, and known as the place Louis Armstrong called home. Perhaps we were on our way to Mr. Walker's store to get as many sugar daddies and yankee doodles as we could for a dollar. Or maybe we were going to Tyson's barbershop where my brother recalls occasionally seeing a tall, bespectacled redbone man they called Malcolm. On the way, we might have said hello to Steve, a one-armed short sweet dark skinned man in his fifties with the open smile of a seven year old. We would have passed Stacey, our friend Lared's mother, a broom thin young woman with full beautiful lips who talked real fast and cussed all the time regardless of her mood or situation. "How ya'll doin?" she might say, cigarette dangling from her mocha painted bottom lip. "Y'all see that damn Lared? Tell him I'mo kick his ass when he get home. Alright , 'yall be good." It was a good time to grow up in Corona. There was very little on those streets that I feared because my brother always walked with me.

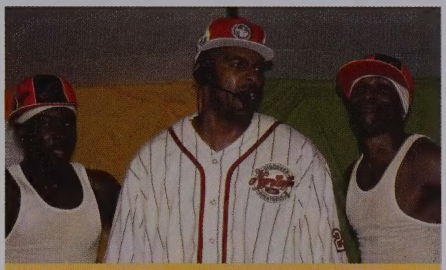
I trusted him fully and completely. So when I gave him my last nickel to go to the store and get me some devil dogs, I believed him when he came back telling me that a local gang roughed him and took that nickel. I was more shocked than angry when my mother came in from work asking who left the devil dog wrapper in front of the door. I somehow knew that I was his, that Kenny more than anyone was directly responsible for me. I used to wonder why he made me join the singing groups he would form even though I could not carry a tune. Sometimes he would berate me for not singing like Michael Jackson. We'd fight and I would quit only to return the next day straining to hit notes far beyond my reach. He was a gifted singer who certainly didn't need me there, as the other group members would tell him. But I was his brother and he would have it no other way. Years later he would stand up to my father during his first tirade about my homosexuality. For what seemed like a very long time, Kenny remained silent as I nervously awaited his response. And when Dad suggested that I see a psychiatrist in order to be cured, Kenny told him to get his own head examined for not accepting reality.
He was my first guardian.

Over the years our growing differences stretched and pulled our relationship thin. As a young man, I grew to accept my sexuality and integrate that self-affirmation along with the cultural pride our parents had instilled in us both. I began writing and performing poetry that narrated my experiences and viewpoints as a gay-identified black man. Kenny married and attended his wife's church where he eventually got saved. He stopped singing secular music and started leading praise and worship choirs. Soon after I had moved to Atlanta with my partner, I noticed that he had stopped inquiring about my personal life. He would still talk about how he and his wife were doing but when I would bring up my relationship he would grow quiet or change the subject. Weeks before a planned holiday visit, he told me that he was uncomfortable with me bringing my partner because we were leading a sinful lifestyle. During another stay, he took me to their church where I sat through an encore repudiation of homosexuality. Although we later discussed how we each felt about these mat-

ters, a festering resentment had taken root. I called less frequently and only visited if our parents would be there for Thanksgiving or Christmas. I was genuinely happy to see him then as we would joke and talk about music or movies. But whenever a friend asked me about him, I would focus on the gaps and ignore the ties between us.

My mother sounded almost calm on the recorded message that informed me of his car accident. He suffered a concussion and was partially paralyzed for months. Watching him in the hospital bed, I was reminded of how easily we could have lost him. My anger toward him paled in the stark light of my brother's mortality. After he healed, our relationship has resumed its same old course, so thus had my resentment. But something had changed. (Joni Mitchell never lies.) It became difficult to harbor this hardness in my heart. I took notice of every time he neglected to ask about my personal life or my activist work. But then I would remember how he told me he loved me at the end of every phone call. One evening he called after seeing Earth, Wind & Fire on a pop documentary and within minutes we were immersed in an hour long reminiscence about the music of our youth. We were two middle-aged men harkening the golden age of R&B and praising the slim crop of "real" singers among today's artists. And so it wasn't until the next day that I realized he had not asked me any of those questions that I thought he should be asking me, that I thought he would ask if I were straight. But he did inquire about the novel that I am writing. And as always, his parting words were "love you, man".

Every now and then I want him to express more interest in different aspects of my life. I want him to ask about last month's Clikque article or my work at Positive Impact. I want him to do things that he probably will never do. But if I continue to obsess about what he cannot give, then I will miss that which he can and does give. And so it seems that I am still learning through my brother that which I did not learn from the boyfriends who tried to love me, whom I could not love as they were. A very wise woman once wrote, "Who can love the perfect love, never short or thin?" So many years later, and he is still in some way holding open doors for me. Kenny and I are brothers who share a colorful common history and have made indelible imprints on each other's sense of self. We might never have the kind of emotional intimacy that I enjoy with my closest friends. But we do have a bond that is exclusively ours and it is no less precious. Years ago, my mother told me that in order to prevent my brother from resenting me, during her pregnancy, they would tell him they would come back from the hospital with his baby. Visitors who came to see me were quickly instructed to ask him if they could hold "his" baby. I like to imagine him at 3 years old allowing adults to pick me up. It makes me feel protected and loved.



ANTHONY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 54

is clearly our child, a merge of Anthony and Dana. I'm a father. That's another aspect of me as a gay man. I'm still good friends with my baby mama even though she knows the truth about me.

Who is your audience?

My music is for the kids. Particularly black gay folks. Very few folks have had the opportunity to talk about being gay, sexuality, gay sex on a CD. Gay folks been changing pronouns in songs and applying them to their lives forever. I got emails from a brother in Montana that had gone to my website and heard my music. I didn't think there were black gay folks in Montana (laughs). I'm really pleased. The culmination is that.

How is it working with your producer?

Jimmy George of Wave Motion Sound recording studio. He's the same one that did "Dante's Got A Man." He restored my faith in heterosexual men. Here's a man who didn't know me, who regardless of what I brought to him, he's down. We work so well together. I love that it didn't matter that I wanted to do "gay music". It was good music to him, and he ran with it.

When did you start being openly gay in your music?

Going through coming out and getting comfortable with my sexuality, it made sense that I talk about it in my music. There's a saying that no one can do you like you. There's no one out doing Anthony Antoine. It really evolved as I became more involved in activism and HIV prevention.

Any Hobbies?

Sex, but that's performing too (laughs). No I spend a lot of time with my daughter. I love going to the movies and hanging with her and her friends. She's 13 with a cell phone. I'm a homebody. I love writing, watching good television, Will and Grace, Sex In The City. I love just chillin'.

What inspires you and what do you fear most?

I'm a very passionate person. People who are passionate inspire me. The kids who are passionate about HIV prevention. When they disclose their status, that's revolutionary. My greatest fear is that someone dies without fulfilling what they were supposed to do on the planet. I used to fear that my music wouldn't happen in the way I planned. I don't have that fear any more. You can't take my CDs away from me. They are done.

Want some more? Hit the website at www.anthonyantoine.com

ANGRY ALL THE TIME

Written By Scott Bogan
Clikque Magazine Senior Staff Writer

Since the last time that I have written a lot has taken place in my life. The friend that I wrote about in May passed away, I turned a year older in June, Dwight and his partner Louis showed me a fabulous time in South Beach, I attended a television pilot premier called Collegeland by Scotty Mullen that I really hope gets picked up by a network because it is very funny and smartly done. Lastly, I have returned to therapy only to discover that I am angry and my anger has taken a hold of me and doesn't seem to want to let go.

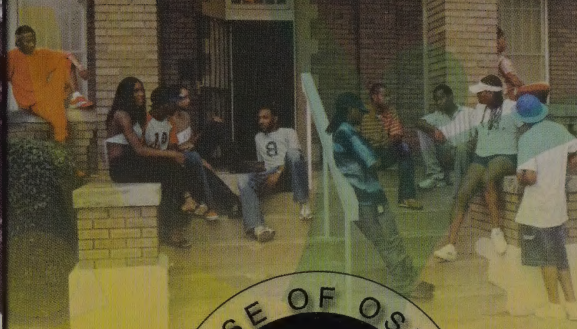
I initially returned to therapy because while at work one day I had a panic attack. I was sitting at my desk reading my email when all of a sudden my chest began to tighten and I could not catch my breath. I calmly got up and drove myself to the emergency room only to find out that I was having a panic attack. They gave me a sedative and sent me home. What was so confusing to me about this episode was that in the past when I have had panic attacks it was usually the result of me trying to control something that I had no way of controlling. For instance, the last really bad attack happened when I was in London and my flight home was delayed 7 hours and I really needed to get home. But this time there nothing that I was trying to control. Again, I was just sitting at my desk. What I have discovered through my sessions is that I am angry about so many things in the world, with my relationships, in my life in general and because I don't release the anger it has built up inside me and comes out the best way it can. This particular time it was in the form of a panic attack. When I think about it in retrospect, my anger has shown up at work, in my car, with my friends, even here in my articles. The slightest thing can/will piss me off to the tenth degree. While most people can casually dismiss it and move on, I get up on my soapbox and rant and rave and carry this anger around with me like some sort of fashion accessory. I even play out scenarios when I am alone. Reenacting situations that made me angry all over again. Never letting go. Anger is tricky though because it is not a real emotion. It is a mask for hurt or fear. And if I don't deal with the hurt or fear I can never get rid of the anger.

One of the several things that my therapist suggested that I do to release my anger is a journal. I have written in journals for years but this task was more specific.

I had to compile a list of everything that makes me angry. Here is some of my list:

- I am angry because I make poor decisions for my life.
- I am angry because everyone in the world seems selfish and inconsiderate.
- I am angry because even though everyone seems selfish and inconsiderate they are politically correct enough to make you think they aren't.
- I am angry because I try to be considerate and respectful of the world but I don't get the same back.
- I am angry because I want to be happy but cannot seem to be.
- I am angry because I cannot trust.
- I am angry because I have pushed a lot of good decent people away that I was afraid were going to hurt me.
- I am angry because my optimism about life and love is disappearing.
- I am angry because my parents are the smartest people that I know but they are so judgmental and hypocritical and they cannot see it.
- I am angry because I think that I am quickly becoming exactly like them.
- I am angry because there are things in my life that I want to do yet I feel stuck.
- I am angry because I go out on dates and think that we are having a good time and then I never hear from them again.
- I am angry because all of my friends are attractive, smart, incredible people yet most of them are single.
- I am angry because no matter how hard I keep trying to change, I don't think that I do.

This is just a sample of my list. The complete list is about 4 pages long and growing. This anger has a grip on me so tight that it is affecting my health. My blood pressure is elevated, at times I can't sleep and of course there are my panic attacks. I am trying to work through this but most of the time it seems so much bigger than me that I don't know that I can. All I can say right now is that I am trying to get through this. There is a song on Brandy's new album that sums up how I have been feeling lately. The words are, "Should anybody ask for me tell them I be right back in a real short time. It's just that I've lost my mind and I gotta find it. Once I hop on my train of thought I'll get back here pronto to collect myself. There's nothing you can do to help."



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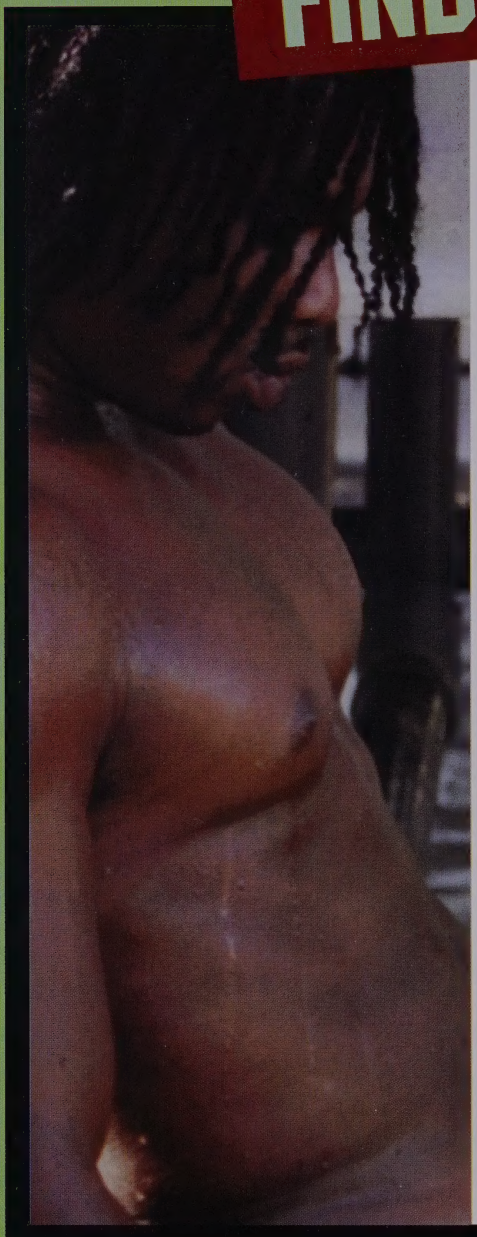
BAREBACKER SEEKS LOVE FINDS TROUBLE

anonymous



I'd been living in New York City for the past year jerking my life away. Literally: I must have slept with several hundred guys in the previous year, searching in each of them for some fulfillment, withdrawing into a world of 24 hour, instantly available, serial smut on the Web. I felt lonely and depressed and my doctor prescribed an anti-depressant in a well-intentioned attempt to medicate me out of my inertia. However, his best efforts failed -- dismally.

It was during this bout with depression that I became interested in receptive anal sex. Getting poked up the butt -- with anything, let alone a fully engorged, erect penis -- was never high on my list of things to do. But recently... I'd had a change of heart: like coleslaw or sushi, how do you know you don't like something unless you try it?

With this in mind, I made a date with Rick, a guy I met online and chatted with for over nine months before hooking up.

Rick is about as movie star gorgeous as any man I have ever known. There's something overwhelmingly persuasive about a man as attractive as him. It wasn't more than 15 minutes until we were in bed together and he was fucking me. Thinking back, I can't remember either of us ever mentioning condoms but I had told him ages ago that, "I [was] negative and I intend[ed] to stay that way".

Things progressed fairly rapidly from that point on -- we saw each other often, with escalating frequency. It wasn't long before sex dates had become traditional dates, incorporating walks in the park, dinners and sleep-overs. Nevertheless, even as romance blossomed, the primary focus was an incredible sexual attraction. We were irresistibly drawn to each other.

Losing myself in our connection, I indulged my fantasy of a devoted, loving relationship, one that embraces unsafe sex between HIV-negative partners as a physical manifestation of our intense emotional bond. I did NOT want to convert: I'm not a bug-chaser. But I had an erotic notion of semen in this context to the point that ingesting it -- the whole act of consuming and incorporating it -- became an irresistible impulse. And we acted on that impulse. The only

problem? We removed condoms from our equation before discussing HIV status or testing.

Instead of drawing us closer, it felt like our moment of unparalleled intimacy only drove us apart, as a dark cloud descended over our amorous tranquility. Suddenly, Rick wanted us both to test for HIV, "if we're going to do that kind of thing."

Which was fine by me, I suppose, as he had to be negative -- after all, I'd told him that I was and he'd been fucking me raw for weeks at this point. (I mean, he HAS to be negative, right?) I awaited the results with a familiar sense of undulating panic: of course I'm negative; oh my God, what about the time that...; everything's fine; dear Lord, I'm dying -- I can feel it growing inside me!

I got the all clear. Negative, undetectable viral load: the dream survives -- I think. Elated, I left word on Rick's cell phone, hoping he'd return my call shortly with equally wonderful news. And so I waited. And waited.

Finally, later in the afternoon, he rang to report his result. He was positive.

He sounded devastated as he told me that he'd spent the past few hours alone in a café, debating treatment options and pondering his fate, wracked with self- recriminations and doubt. I wanted to drop everything to be with him, but he wouldn't have it. He told me that I should leave him ("I'm no good for you"), that he'd kill himself if I were hurt (Oh my God, that's right: what about me?).

I went straight to my doctor to report Rick's test result. He crossed his eyes, breathed a deep sigh and advised me to immediately commence triple-combination Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP). However, he cautioned me that 10 days had past since Rick came inside me, well outside the 24-hour window within which PEP is believed to be effective.

I'm told the adverse side effects of HIV meds improve dramatically after the first four to six weeks. I wouldn't know, since PEP "only" lasts for one month -- an extremely expensive month if you don't have health insurance or you don't want your insurer to know about it. Within minutes of taking the first of so many hundreds of pills, every waking hour of that month was unbearably nightmarish. Apart from the chronic diarrhea and gassy bloating, my skin constantly felt like it was on fire and I was always exhausted.

Later that first night, tired and alone -- feeling abandoned in my misery -- I tried calling Rick to find out how he was coping and to update him on my news. But his phone was switched off and I was directed -- repeatedly -- straight to his voice-mail: "Call me -- please!" Waiting in vain by the phone, I crawled into bed that first Friday night and cried myself to sleep, trying to come to terms with my responsibility for my role in all of this.

It didn't help that my doctor was adamant that he speak with Rick's doctor immediately in order to better address my treatment -- something to do with geno-/phenotypes.

The following afternoon, Rick finally rang back -- "Oh my God, you sound so sad -- what's wrong?" (What's wrong?)

He assured me that everything was OK, he'd been meditating and had decided to come back to the city on Sunday -- he'd meet me at the pier dance (Gay Pride -- how intimate!). We ended up back together and I felt as if love would see us through this horror. We comforted each other as we settled into our respective drug regimens, gently trying to adjust to our new circumstances. Slowly the old rhythms returned and we resumed an approximation of our prior existence.

A few weeks later, I came across some of his medication bottles. The prescriptions had been filled a full week before we even tested, about the time he ejaculated inside me.

When I confronted him. He told me the truth. He'd known that he was positive for eight months. He just didn't know how to tell me. And he'd assumed that I had to be positive too if I let him fuck me raw -- and cum inside me. He didn't want to hurt anyone, least of all me, he said. He really did love me and was mortified by what he had done, he added. Would I ever forgive him?

I did, but things would never be the same again.

The lesson I learned is this: people, even good people, and those who say they love you, sometimes lie about really important things. Sometimes the lies are by omission and sometimes they're outright, bold-faced lies. And sometimes we even lie to ourselves.

When it comes to HIV-status and disclosure, by the time you finally get to the truth, you may have already put yourself or your loved ones at grave risk. Assumptions should never be made about the HIV status of your sexual partners. However dreamlike sex may feel, serious health risks and responsibilities accompany it.

ASK Bianca

Hey Ladies... and gentlemen,
Well, if you are reading this, it is hello gyrl. It is so nice to be back and what a beautiful summer this has been. Your girl has been enjoying the beach immensely and wishes this kind of weather would last forever. Last week, I wore my Chanel piece to the beach. The silver one with the white stripe going across the front and the boys followed me all over the shore. The gagger, was when I took them off and the men saw my newly designed voluptuousness. The beaches of North Miami will never be the same again.

Well, I am getting ready to go to Atlanta, to see some girlfriends of mine, compete in the Miss Liberty 2004 pageant, as well as catch some of the cuties on display at the Balenciaga/ Givenchy Ball. I have done enough nipping and tucking and Hotlanta will not be ready for me. Any hoo, this column is not about me. For real, it is about you lost souls who need my motherly advice despite the fact that I have no maternal instincts. So, before you start turning green with envy, here is this month's advice from the ever devastating, always beautiful bitch.
Miss Bianca Buchanan.

Dear Bianca,

I recently went to a nightclub as the guest of the bar-back and was told that he no longer works there. Here I was, in Prada and hot pink only to be told by some troll, at the door I would have to pay. I have not paid to go to a club in over 10 years and I am not about to start. So I clicked my heels twice and went back to my friends waiting to see if we were getting in for free. Should I be upset or am I over reacting? Plus the damn bar-back has not called me, to tell me he no longer works there. I am mad as hell, but more embarrassed than anything, because the girl who told me I had to pay, is a bitch I used to just swing by as I yell am on the list.
1st time off the list in New York

Dear 1st time off the list,
Wonders never cease. You were on the bar-backs guest list? Whatever happened to the DJ's guest list? When did bar-backs start having guest lists? My, how time has changed? I did some research and this is what I learned. A bar-back is usually a handsome, straight acting boy who services bartenders at the club. He normally has many friends who he sneaks into the back door but rarely is he given the use of a formal guest list. You were lucky your bar-boy had it good and had a list. My advice to you next time girl, is to aim higher. Try dating the door girl, or the owner or the DJ. They are more likely to keep their jobs and hence keep you on the list. As for the boy not calling, what makes you think he still has his metro. Maybe you should get a nose job or your teeth fixed and you will be on the A-list and wont need a bar-back to get you into any club. You stay stunned as I remain stunning.
Bianca

Dear Bianca,

I just found out that my boyfriend is not really my boyfriend, but that he is in a long term relationship with one of my co-workers over here at the exchange. I am quite annoyed and bothered because I was bragging to this bitch about how big my mans piece is, how good he uses it and the passion and positions we make love in. I went on to tell her something he really likes to do which is kinda weird and she said to me, "what is your man's name". I told her Alyn at which point she literally gagged. Then she said to me, "do you have a picture", and I went into my wallet. This bitch went into her purse and pulled out the same picture. When I woke up she was fanning me with her address book. Needless to say I left the man but she is still with him claiming the dick has been hers for years and never was mine. I am tempted to call him; cuz he had some real talent in the sack plus the dick is just like I like them, big. What should I do?
Angel in Miami

MAIL

Bianca is interested in helping you solve some of the greater mysteries of life. Write her at Clikque Magazine,
1001 North Federal HWY, Suite 365, Hallandale, FL 33009
Or email her C/O Clikque1@aol.com

Dear Angel in Hell.. I mean Miami. Sorry to hear about your tragedy because losing good dick is a travesty. My suggestion is that like a white chick you should throw a BF. That is a Bitch Fit. It is the most fetch thing to do these days. In your most Valley girl twang you call that girl and give her a piece of your mind. Then go over to her house and deliver the BF letter you wrote to her boyfriend. Go back home and wait for his call. If that does not work, in 24 hours throw another bitch fit. Go ahead, you throw a BF, as I remain beautiful.
Bianca

Dear Bianca,

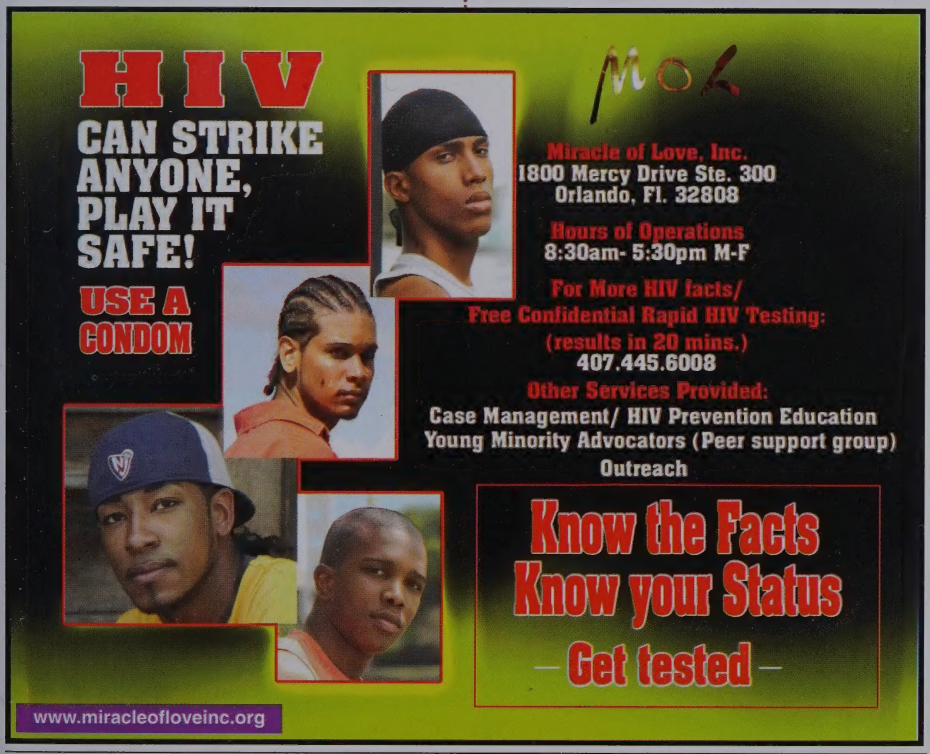
I met my boyfriend in early May. We started dating on May 23rd. He bought a house and wants me to move in with him on August 15th. Do you think it is too early for me to move in with him? I really love this man and the sex is incredible and gets better every time. Just when I think it can get no better than this he pulls another stunt. Should I move in with him or not?
Douglas, Atlanta GA

Dear Douglas,
According to the infamous they, it is too early to move in with him. They say, three months is way too short a time to know if you want to live together. However, my Judy Gretchen, says she went home with a man one night from The Sound Factory Bar (NYC), in 1994 and never went back home, but to get her stuff. That was 10 years ago and today that bitch is still driving that man's 335I BMW. She lies and says it is hers but I know better. All this to say, how soon you should move in is really up to the two of you.
Good luck girl.
Bianca

Dear Bianca,

Do you think I am cute enough to walk face at a ball? Unattached, but ready to grace the runway.

Dear Unattached,
The publisher of this rag said you were too facially challenged, for us to print your picture here. So that, is one vote against your walking face. Then I contacted the Muglers who said I must have been joking. The Balenciagas said, No mam, and even the sweet girls over at Givenchy said can she vogue?
My advice to you is to call Dr. Knott and set up an appointment for a rhino plasti, a jaw line rearrangement, a complete teeth makeover and then go see the skin people at The Dermatology Boutique. Then and only then should you attempt to walk face.
Until you heal, I remain the ever stunning, Bianca.



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NOBODY SHOWS YOU MIAMI LIKE WE DO!

on the SCENE

Scenes From Angel Infinity & DJ MIIK's

Get That Bitch II Mini Ball @ EXIT in Hollywood, Fl

Angel get a 10 for this FABULOUS Mini-Ball @ EXIT

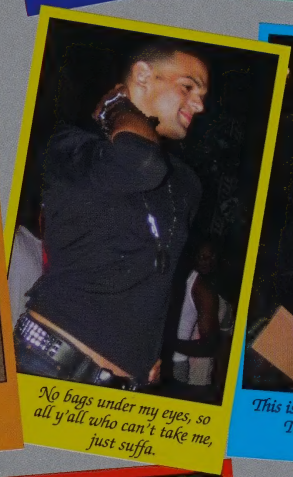
Florida's butch realness as she welcomes SHAQ To Miami

Serving Headwear at the Infiniti function.

The category was so hot we had to print this picture too.

I have the receipts somewhere, I don't know where, but I bought it!

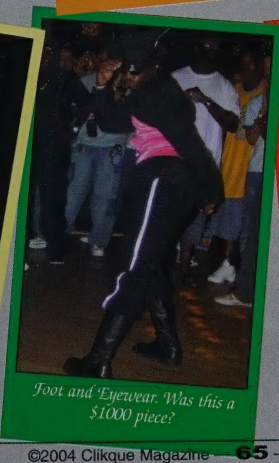
Clikque's Kennedy Davenport, laying it out for the kids.



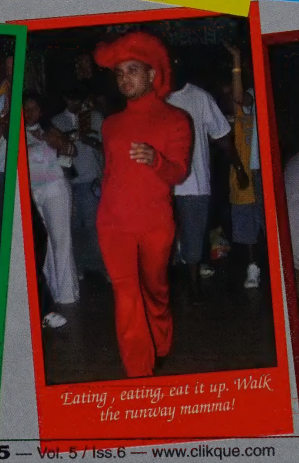
No bags under my eyes, so all y'all who can't take me, just suffa.

This is cada. Miami's new Face. Touch this skin honey. Touch all of it.

to a ball, snatch a trophy, w everyone wants to know me.



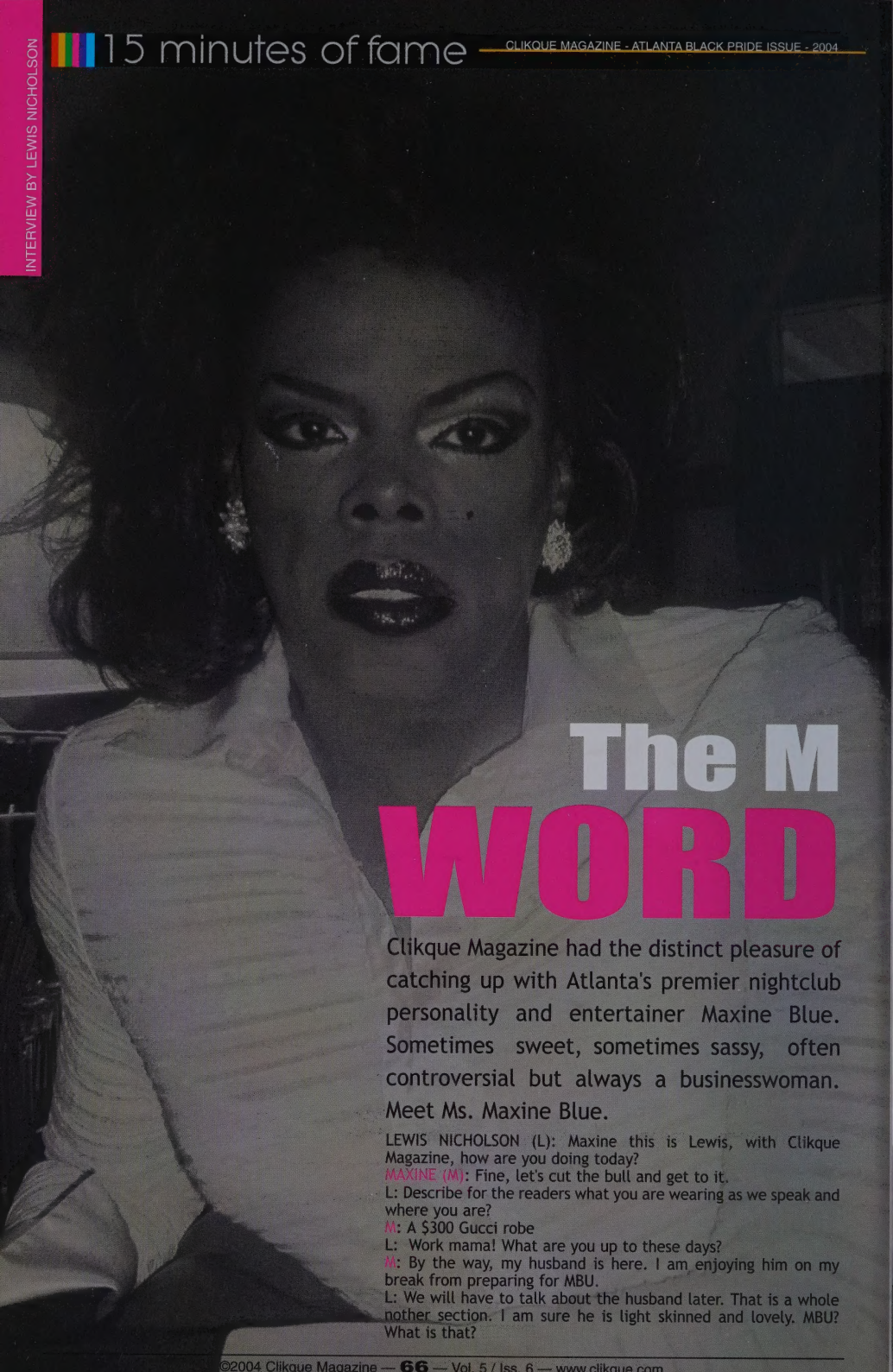
Foot and Eyewear. Was this a $1000 piece?



Eating , eating, eat it up. Walk the runway mamma!

3003, now strike that ovah pose for me.

INTERVIEW BY LEWIS NICHOLSON



The M WORD

Clikque Magazine had the distinct pleasure of catching up with Atlanta's premier nightclub personality and entertainer Maxine Blue. Sometimes sweet, sometimes sassy, often controversial but always a businesswoman. Meet Ms. Maxine Blue.

LEWIS NICHOLSON (L): Maxine this is Lewis, with Clikque Magazine, how are you doing today?
MAXINE (M): Fine, let's cut the bull and get to it.
L: Describe for the readers what you are wearing as we speak and where you are?
M: A $300 Gucci robe
L: Work mama! What are you up to these days?
M: By the way, my husband is here. I am enjoying him on my break from preparing for MBU.
L: We will have to talk about the husband later. That is a whole nother section. I am sure he is light skinned and lovely. MBU? What is that?

LADY MAXINE BLUE

ATLANTA'S # 1 MOVER & SHAKER

M: WELL YOU GOT THAT RIGHT about my light and lovely husband. MBU is Miss Black Universe.
L: No! Not Black Universe, you are going back to that?
M: That's right, the bitch is back, I figured, I do one more, so it will end where it all began.
L: You have to be kidding, do you think you can actually be the next Miss Black Universe?
M: I don't have time to kid, because time is money. Oh, I will be the next.
L: What will be different this time around than the last time you ran?
M: The teeth, the look, the brain, and the money. No longer am I a young girl that don't know shit.
L: The teeth? You got falsies, a whole plate or did you get the good shit?
M: Thanks to the fans, and the people, who go to the clubs, I got the good shit I mean implants some get tits, I got teeth.
L: You better work. Universe will not be ready for you if you get a gown to go along with the new look.
M:I am getting it from china, you know they don't play ova there.
L: They don't, but Maxine Blue has played with the kids before in some less than stellar gowns.
M: Well I guess we will just have to wait and see, wont we?
L: You have always had the talent, the Q& A, the walk, so now with the gown and new look, I feel sorry for the other girls who had their eyes on the prize.
M: Well, we all do our best, so it's whoever is hot that night, that's what a pageant is all about.
L: Yes it is. What is the difference between Maxine Blue of the Bachelors Mill as opposed to Maxine Blue of Atlanta, GA?
M: There's nothing different, I have not changed, as others do, except I now have fewer real friends.
L: Before we get off the subject of pageantry, a friend of mine asked me to find out how you really felt about the year, I think it was 1999, when you won Interview, Presentation and Q & A at Miss Liberty but was named 4th runner - up?
M: By not winning there were no expectations put on me, so it was fine, however, I won't be competing in that system anymore. I wish them the best of luck.
L: why wouldn't you do Liberty again? But Universe?
M: I don't think I'm what they are looking for, SOME ONE WHO IS DRIVEN TO REACH THE TOP and Liberty does not want that? I think MBU can help me, and I can help them. It's a business you know. I m sure they do but, as always they under- estimated Maxine, She's a winner.
L: Is it true that you got your start at a fashion show in Pyontek, Korea, while serving in the armed forces?
M: No it's not true, I got my start when I was ten in MILWAUKEE.
L: Ten huh? Do tell us about that?
M: You see, my father was very strict, so my mother always told us to pay him no attention, and to go for the gold. No matter what happened, she would say at least you tried.
L: Mom sounds like a wise woman. So what was your first experience on a stage like?
M: A queen must spread her wings and fly.
L: Were you aware that you were going to be a star when you burned the runway in Korea?
M: It was a mess, I fell on the runway, everyone laughed but then I knew what my true calling was; COMEDY. Oh yes, Rodney and me were the queens of the post. Mother Nature and Mother Superior, guess which one I was.
L: You had to be superior.
M: You got it.
L: Rodney ... well I can't put Rodney's business out there like that, but you had to be Superior. Now that you are pretty much at the top how has your life changed.
M: Well my dad came to see my show at The Metro, and told me he was proud of me and you know what? That was the best thing I ever got or heard from anyone. And by the way, I don't think I am at the top yet. I'm still living from paycheck to pay check.
L: Must be a lot of living you are doing, for it to be paycheck to paycheck. Your dad saw you in drag? That is comforting? What made you decide to go into promotions.
M: I had no choice, Jerry from Colours fired me because he wanted to control me, so it was go into promotions or go home. (I mean back to DC).
L: What has been your most rewarding experience as a promoter?
M: Being able to help those who have helped me.
L: What do you think is responsible for your success and is there anyone in the business you admire or look up to?
M: Hard work. The people are as follows
TIM JONES, NIESHA, DOMINIQUE, TRAVIS AND ROME
However now I have a whole new group of people. The young kids of Atlanta. Eric, Steve, Alley Cat and Sherry
L: Alley Cat? lol
M: My gay child, she is the current Miss Bachelor's Mill and always by my side.
L: When you decide to do a party, how do you know

MAXINE CONTINUES ON PAGE 68

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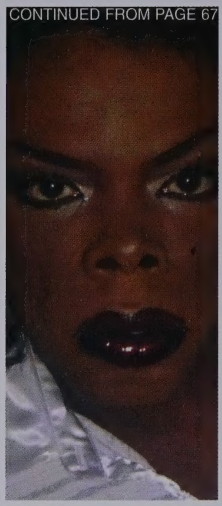

whether or not people are going to support it?
M: I don't, I just keep trying and hopefully if you build it they will come
M: Oh yeah I cant forget my Latin kids, they got me through some really hard times. Thanks Alex and Alexis.
L: Which of your promotion ventures are you most proud of?
M: My Latin night at the chaparral, they come every week and don't judge, or get jealous, they just support.
L: How does that make you feel that it is not your own that has supported you most?
M: They support too, but you know how we are.
L: How do you think we can change that in the black gay community?
M: It's been inbred from slavery, it was the only way to keep us down, divide and concur. I think we can change it by voting.
L: Speaking of voting, you were voted off at Traxx American Idol style, did they ever let you back into Traxx?
M: Oh yeah, they finally figured out I wasn't the problem, you see if they would have given me a job, I would be helping them.
L: Is it true that Atlanta has changed and that Traxx is no longer the club to be at?
M: I guess that is a matter of choice, if you want to support gay people you go to Traxx, if you want to support straight people, you go to the other place on Spring street. I go to traxx on Monday, to support the girls.
L: What is your relationship like with the folks over at 708?
M: For me personally its good, however I hear its bad for others.
L: Others like whom?
M: Well they use to let employees from all clubs get in free, however since the new folks have taken over, they no longer look out for the lowly employees of other clubs, only the big bosses (THANK GOD I'M ONE OF THE BIG BOSSES. See that's what I mean when I say slave mentality, and not taking care of one another.
L: I heard you were once the man being grabbed on, by a wife who went by the name of Mrs. Phillip. How true is that?
M: What? Please explain
L: The rumor mill has it, that you were once married to a real woman.
M: Yes I was, but I met a truck driver and the rest is history.
L: Do you have any kids and if so which on is your favorite?
M: I have about 15, Alley Cat is the favorite, then Miss Anthony.
L: Whatever happened to the Cancun Canteen?
M: Well Dominique and Mario are here and we are taking care of some things so we will have to continue this later. By the way thanks for sending that fine Eli to take my picture I think he is hot. I will call you back in about and hour when we get done
L: On more thing before you go. What is your given name and where did Maxine Blue come from?
M: My given name is Philip Fairchild. Maxine comes from En Vogue, and the last name comes from Bijion Blue my first husband
L: Really Bijon Blue? I never would have guessed! Thanks for chatting with me and have a great day.

With that Maxine ran off to take care of business. As you can see, Maxine Blue is a multifaceted businesswoman and entertainer currently residing in Atlanta. She is sharp and witty, with an acidic tongue, but those who know her, say to really know her is to love her.

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The world may have done you wrong over the last year or so, but they are ready to right those wrongs. Open your arms and allow them to. Hold your hands out and receive. This month wear a hairdo on which the tiara will fit nicely as someone is ready to declare you queen. And the winner is.... You girl!

TAURUS

Normally you are a very strong willed girl, but lately you have been slacking off. Gain some control of your life and resume being the dynamic spectacle that you once were. You are a goddess so sit back and let the kids worship. Yes girl, you are so absolutely fetch.

GEMINI

The evil twin is on the lurk. Slap that bitch twice so that she will go back into hiding. Let the good sister out and all the positive things in life that you desire will be yours. Lately you have been feeling like you made some bad choices but have no fear. Everything is about to fall into place just the way you want it.

CANCER

Sugar listen, You are smart, talented and funny and even straight folks think you are way cool. Not that you really care what they think anyway. Now that the depression is over it is time for you to start making amends. Do something special for your friends , like throw them a big welcome back to your world party. Your friends never stopped thinking of you as a star so go ahead and start acting like the diva you have always been.

LEO

Good golly miss molly. You are embarking upon new adventures all of which are bound to take you places. Making money and finding love is a primary goal of yours and I am pleased to say that both are on the way. Your new love interest is the one for you. He/she is ready and willing to give you all the love and attention you deserve. Hold your head up as life could actually be worse. This summer enjoy every moment as if it was your last.

VIRGO

Finally, the project you started a long long time ago is almost done. The sense of accomplishment you will feel once it is over will make you extremely happy. Stop procrastinating and get it over with. You have other fish to fry and you could be on the horizons of becoming a major force to reckon with in your field. You have a heart of gold but you can be a tad bit controlling at times. Lighten up and live.

LIBRA

You take the good , you take the bad, you take them both at once you are taking a Libra. You are a bag of conflicting ammunition. Explosive yet calm. Caring yet bitchy. What on earth are we supposed to do with you guys? Well this month we ask that you either be an all out bitch or an all out Mother Theressa. Either way, the world will be a better place for it, because you are the best at whatever you chose to do.

SCORPIO

Everyone wants to be around you. Everyone wants to be in you or just be you. Let your light so shine that men can adore you. You enjoy the limelight and this is your turn to shine. You are a glammapuss so pull out the couture. Everything you attempt this month will be a success, so try something daring and outright boldface.

SAGITTARIUS

Sagittarius - Your long lost love is trying to get in touch with you. He never stopped loving you so when he finally gets in contact with you please allow him to re-enter your life. It will be as though he never left. The sex will be incredible and you will be made to feel like the woman that you are and honey you are all woman.
W-O-M-A-N!

CAPRICORN

Capricorn - Gretchen, you betta work! Yes mam. You own the world and everything is yours. Fionna got Shrek and you will get Morris if that is what you desire. Besides, your beauty will be rejuvenated and you will experience much attention from the kids. As the summer winds down you will be heating up as you take centre stage in the drama called your life. Just make sure you also take on the starring role. Too often you allow others to play the lead role in a drama written just for you.

AQUARIUS

Aquarius- Stop doubting if the man is right for you. The two of you are cosmically,perfectly in tune with each other. Enjoy the remaining days of summer with him. Do all you ever dreamed of doing. Sweetie, this is your turn, take it.

PISCES

Pisces - The Lord is my shepard, I see what I want! And baby it is you. Most Pisceans are experiencing the full effect of the laws of attraction this summer. Most people find you irrisistible, so if you are single glance about you because he is only an arms length away. Already hitched? Ok then , just be happy.

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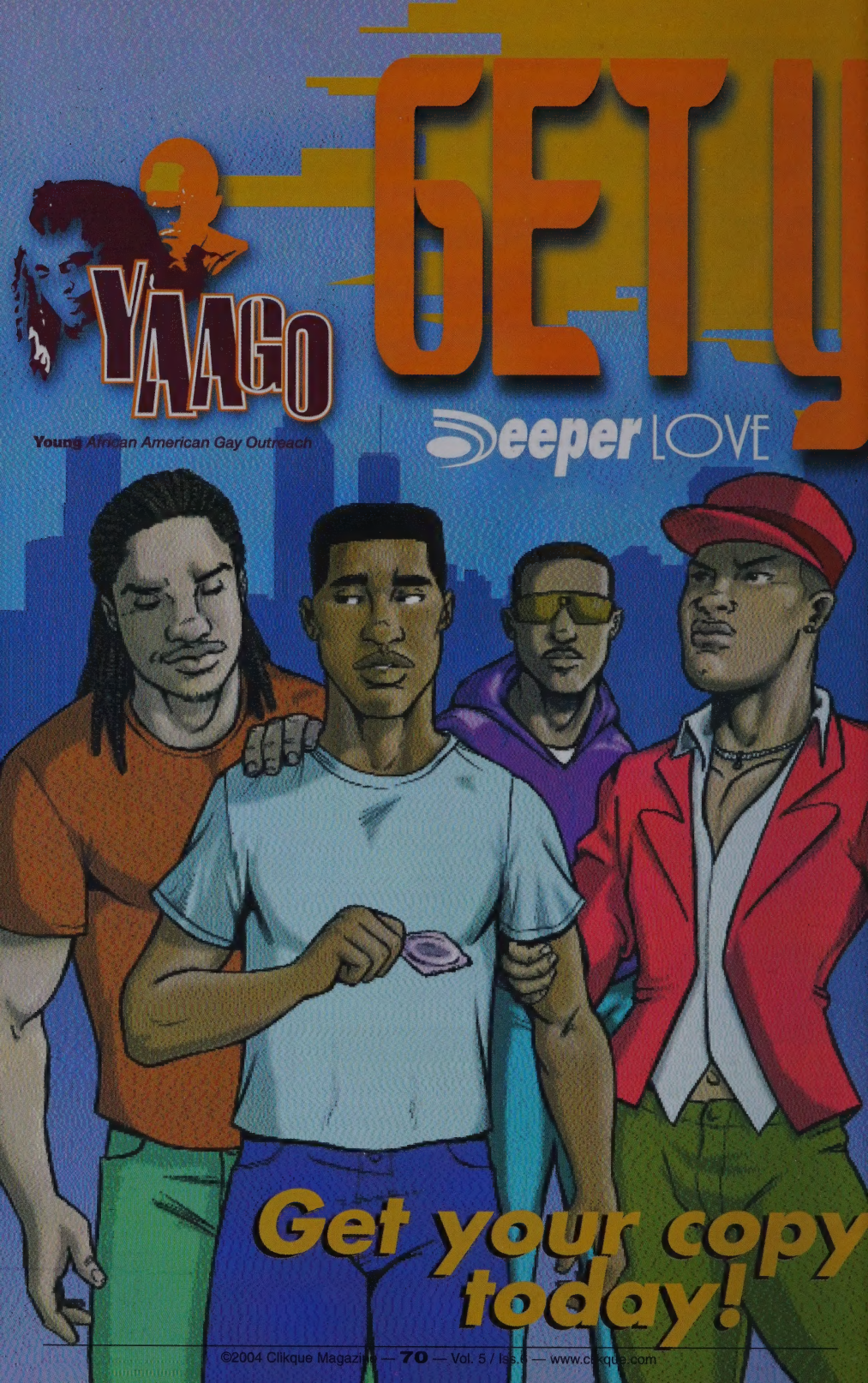
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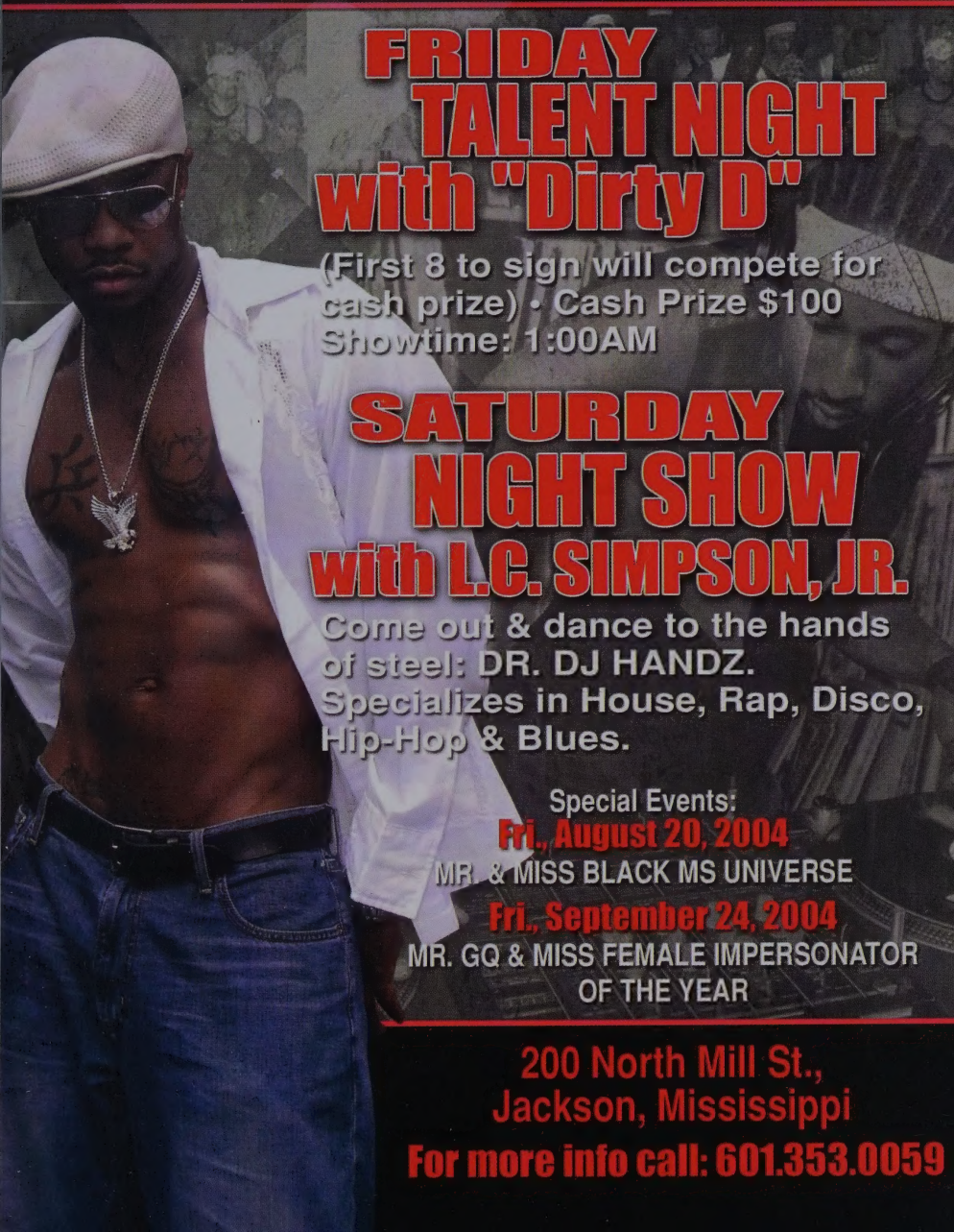

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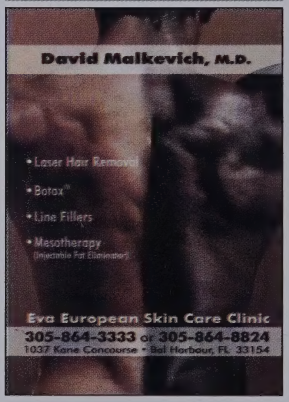

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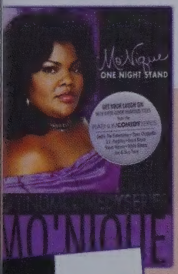

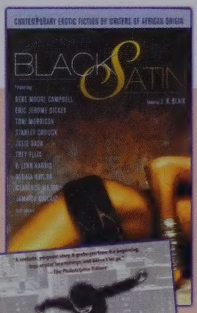

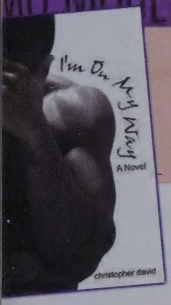

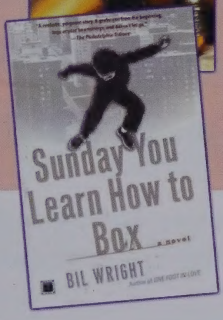

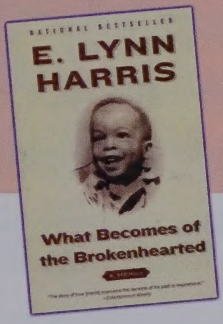

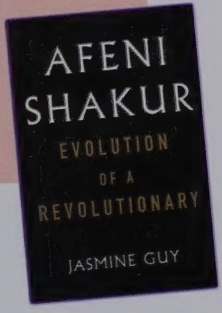

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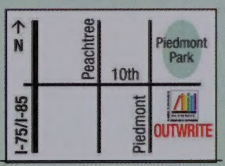

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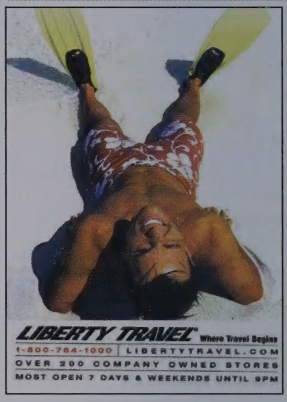
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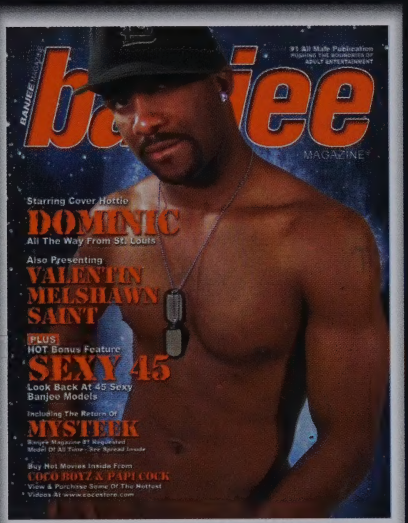

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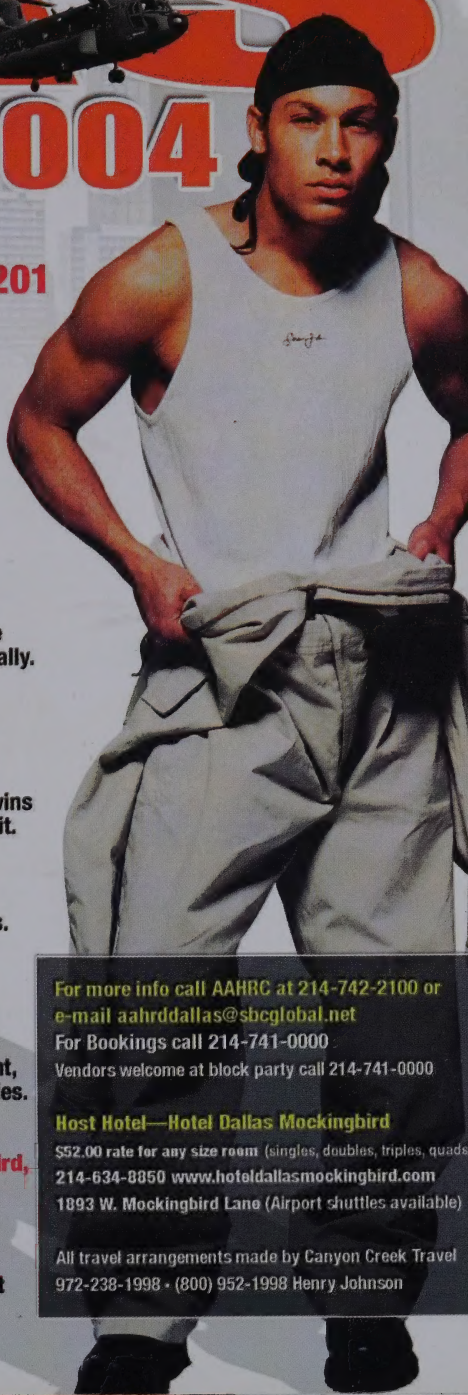

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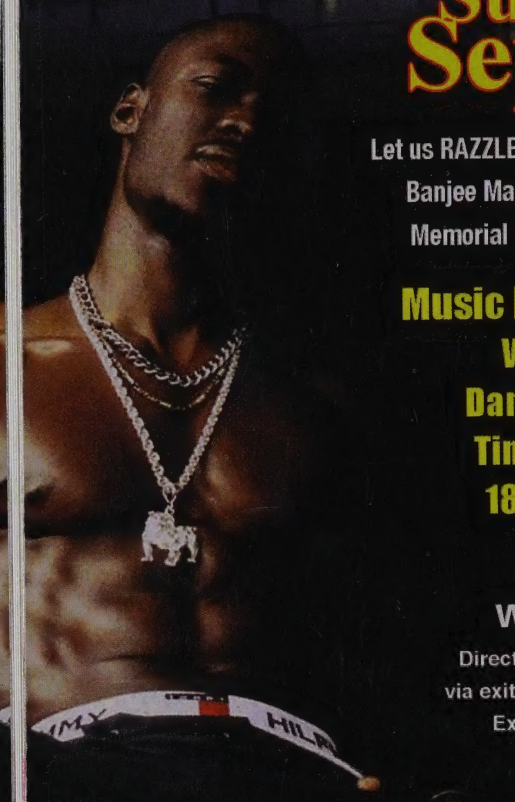

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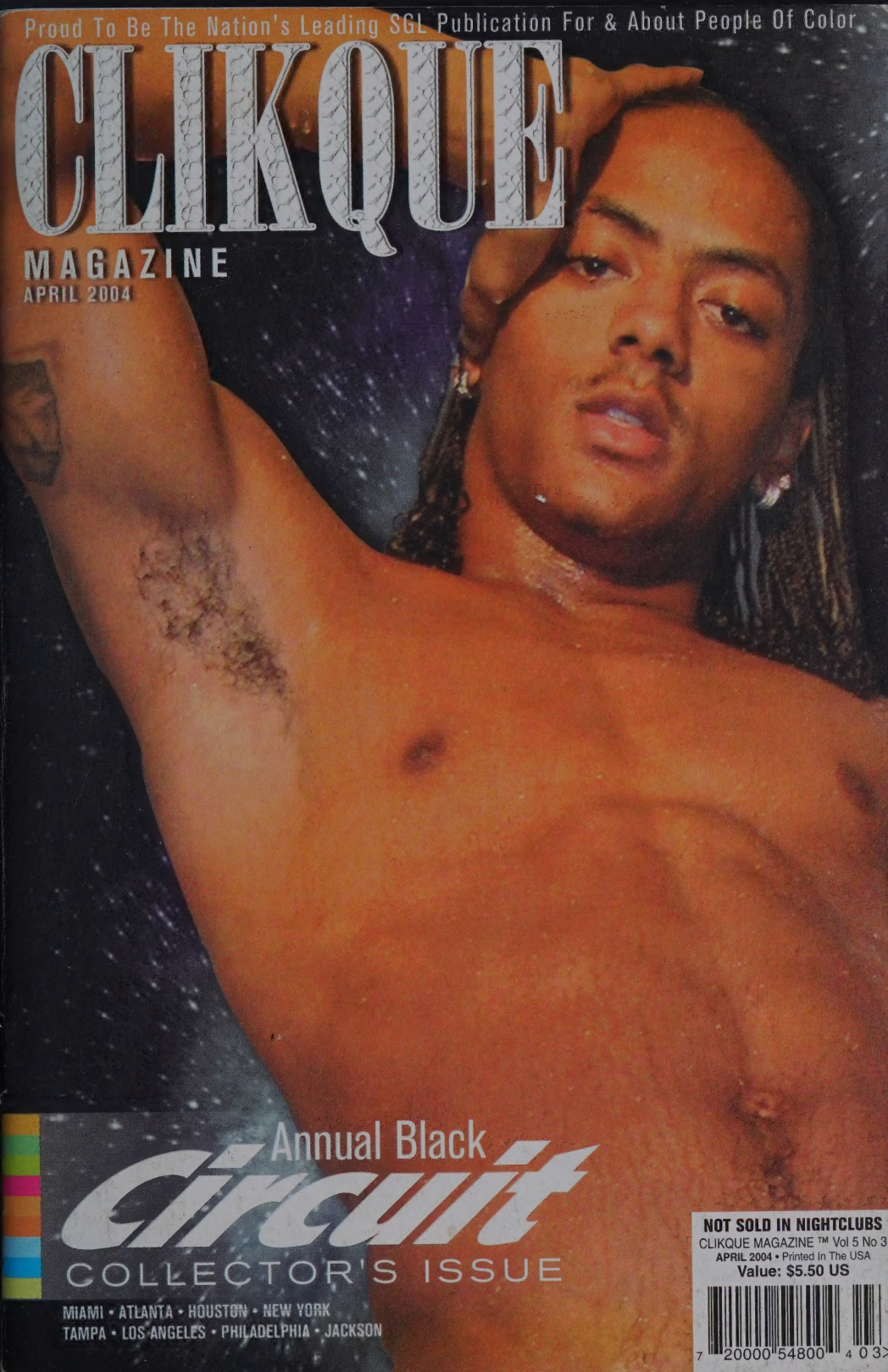

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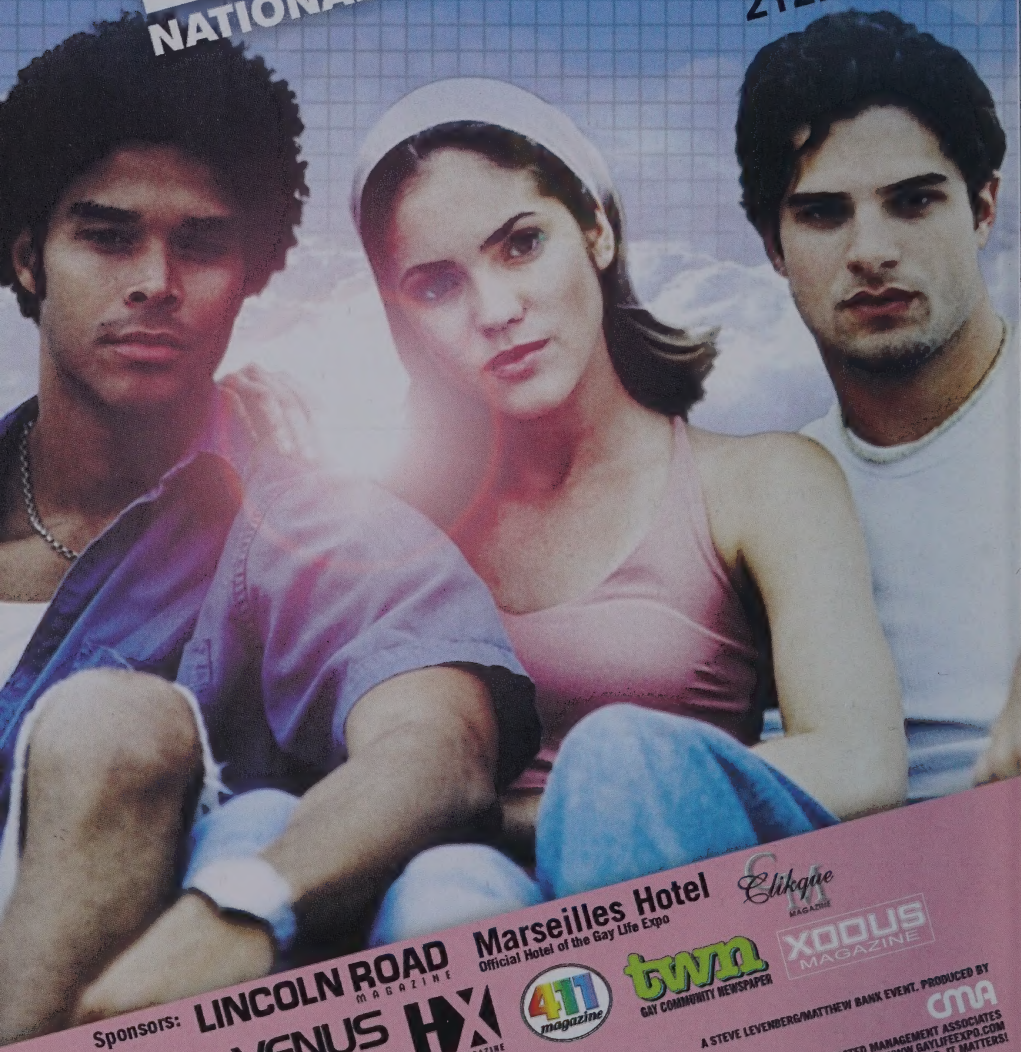

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EDITORIAL

Clikque MAGAZINE

Welcome to the Spring Black Pride edition of Clikque Magazine. As usual we have sought to bring you the very best of our community. We continue to look for submissions form current or aspiring artists to fill the pages of our greatest community resource. Let us recognize that we are all that we have. The insights and thoughts in the edition are complied to serve a s inspiration to us. We trust that you will enjoy this year's season of prides and parties with respect for yourself and others. Be yourself and everything else will fall into place.

Now you can find Clikque at most of your favorite hot spots or you can get a subscription. But you don't want to miss an issue. There will be no shortage of eye candy nor absence of thought provoking articles and inspirational messages. The latest in fashion, news, and our movement will keep you informed and prepared for action in our local and collective community.

Darryl Moch
Features Editor

Sincere thanks to the following individuals that have worked tirelessly for Clikque Magazine over the years. Thanks for continuing to support me to this day.

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Founder / Editor-In-Chief
Clikque Magazine

Darryl Moch

Nestor Zapata

Scott Bogan

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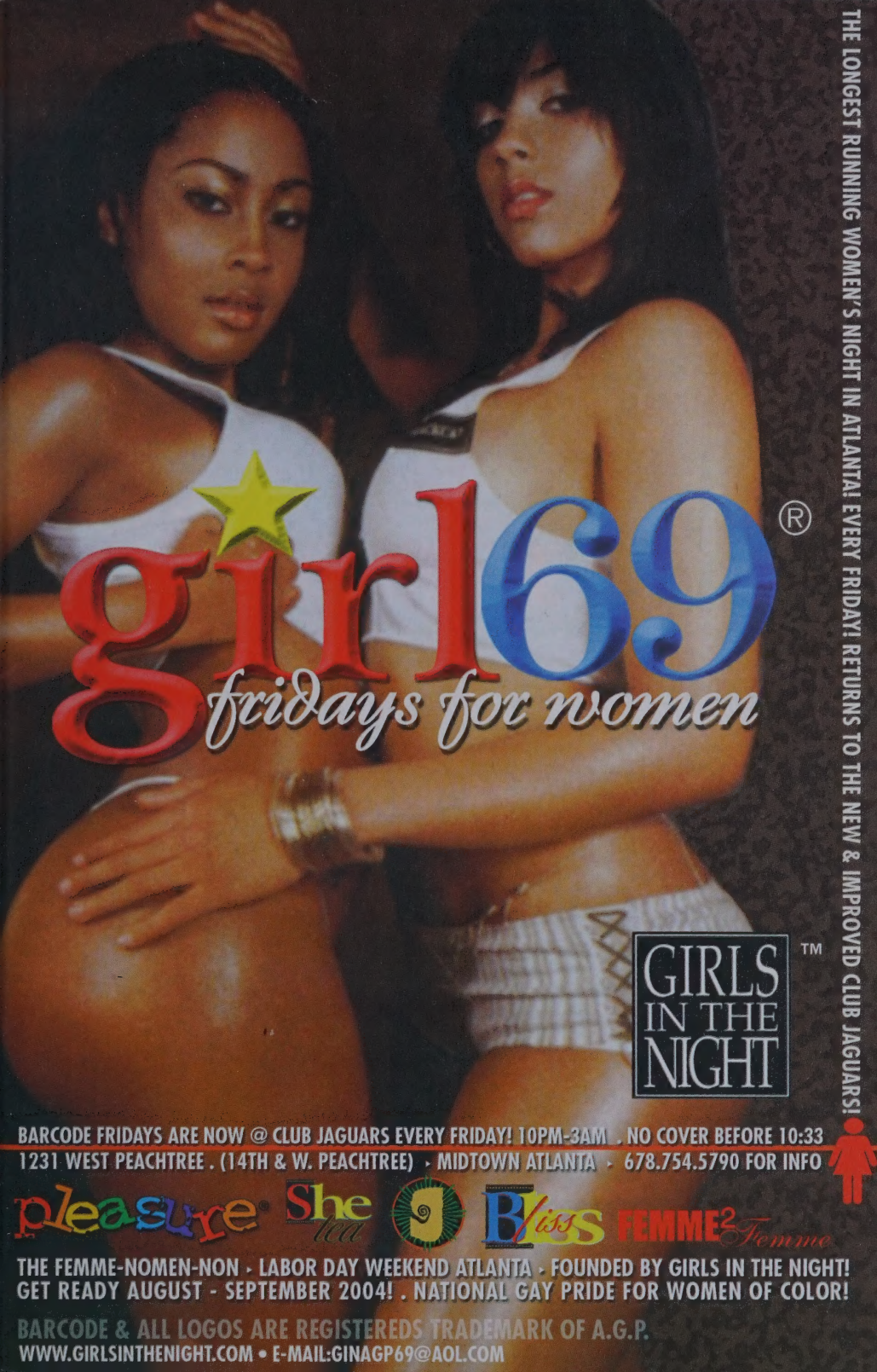
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By Stephen Macias, Entertainment Media Dir., GLAAD

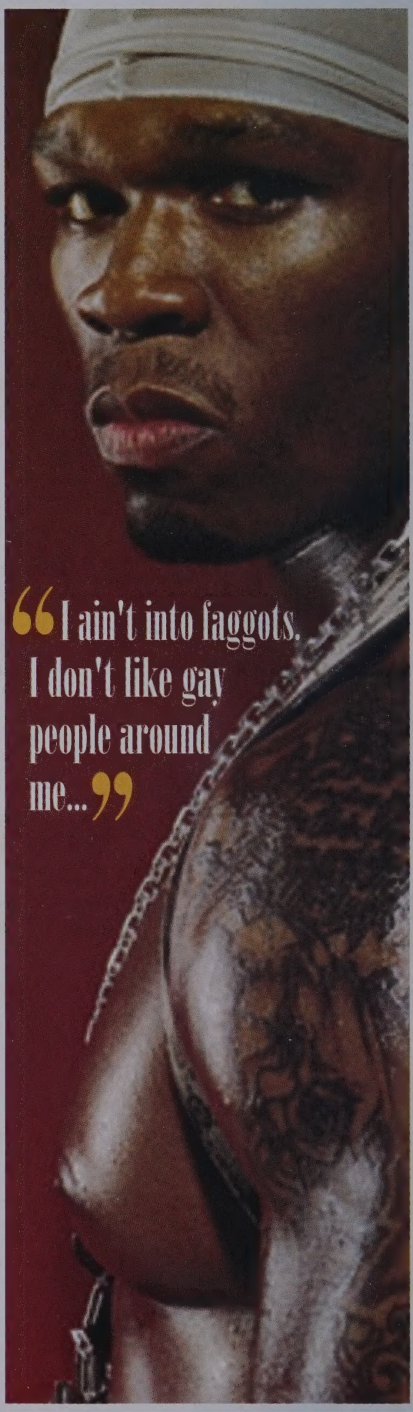
GLAAD Statement Regarding 50 Cent

In an interview appearing in the April 2004 issue of Playboy magazine, 50 Cent made the following comment: "I ain't into faggots. I don't like gay people around me, because I'm not comfortable with what their thoughts are. I'm not prejudiced. I just don't go with gay people and kick it - we don't have that much in common."

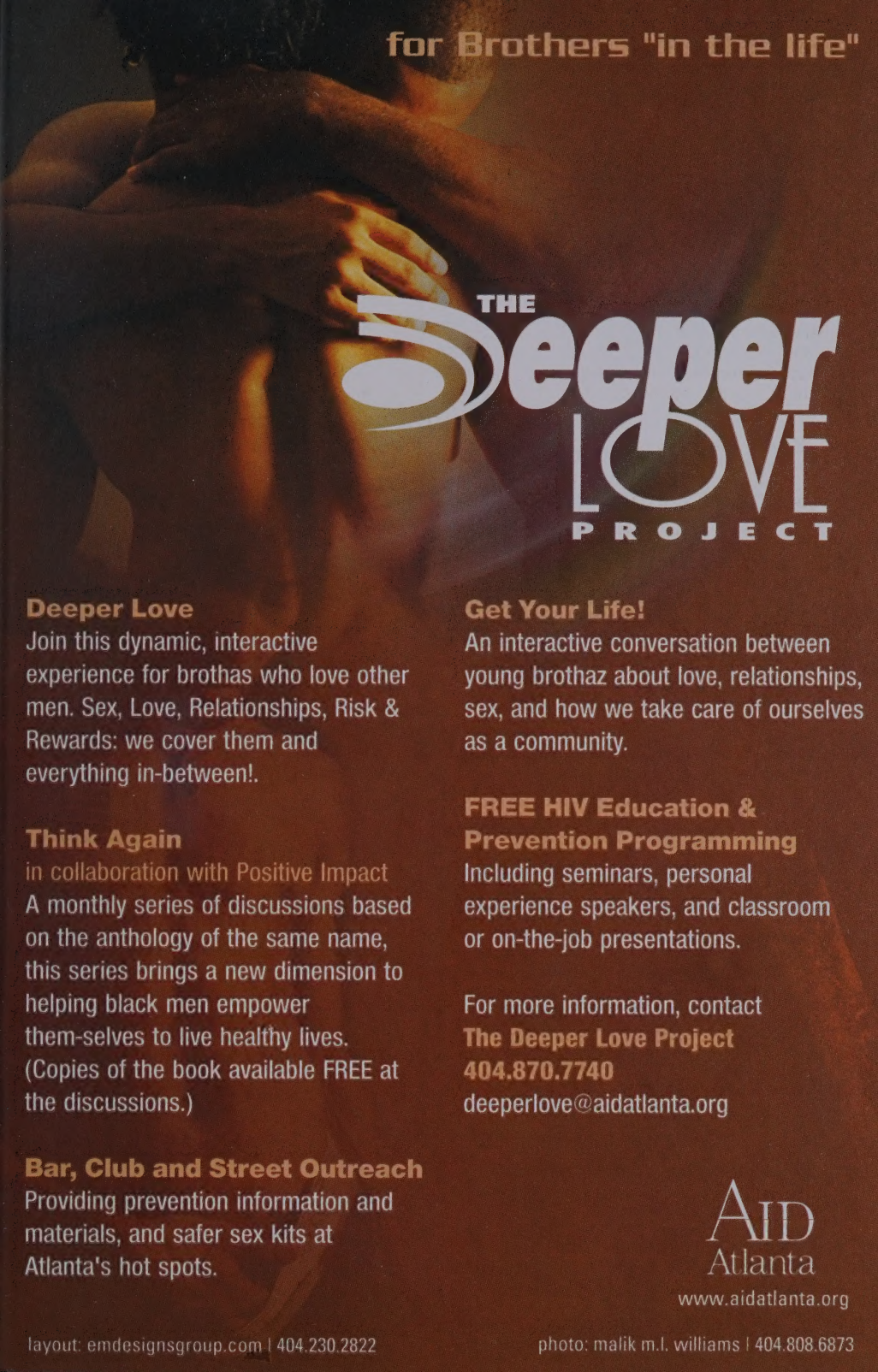
The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) expresses concern over 50 Cent's comments and believes that it can be dangerous to use words like "faggot" and "homo" when talking about the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community.

"As a public figure, 50 Cent must realize that his words can have huge impact. We applaud his honesty in talking about the murder of his bisexual mother and appreciate his acknowledgement that he is not comfortable with gay people. We know that confronting homophobia can indeed be uncomfortable. But honesty is always the first step in overcoming the desire to judge those who are different than us and in overcoming prejudice," said People of Color Media Manager C. Riley Snorton, "A good way to start would be to attend GLAAD's annual media awards. I'd like to invite 50 Cent as my personal guest."

GLAAD encourages 50 Cent to get to know the LGBT community, and we are fully confident that in doing so he will find that he has more in common with us than he thinks.



The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is dedicated to promoting and ensuring fair, accurate and inclusive representation of people and events in the media as a means of eliminating homophobia and discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation.



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By Brian Moylan

HIV/AIDS: Media's 'vanishing' epidemic

A new study and panel discussion about the media's treatment of HIV/AIDS exposes waning interest in covering the epidemic, which coincides with the public's changing perceptions of the disease.

READ ANY COMPELLING stories about HIV or AIDS lately? The answer is probably no, according to a new comprehensive study.

A report published March 1 by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, a California-based non-profit organization that does research and informs the public about major health issues, monitored media coverage of the HIV/AIDS epidemic between 1981 and 2002 and identified a steady decline in the number of news stories related to the topic that major media outlets published or produced.

"I think there is still an open question [about whether] the study presents evidence of 'media fatigue' or not," says Mollyanne Brodie, vice president and director of public opinion and media research for the Kaiser Family Foundation and a co-author of the study.

The study concludes that a central question raised about media coverage of HIV/AIDS in recent years is whether there has been media "fatigue" in covering the story. While some might agree with that conclusion, the study's authors noted that the decline in coverage also coincided with a change in the nature of the epidemic in the U.S. "from an absolute death sentence to a chronic disease that more people live with and manage day-to-day."

American University is scheduled to hold a panel discussion on this topic next week titled "AIDS: The Media's Vanishing Epidemic." The panelists will include medical journalists and directors at various AIDS organizations nationwide.

In the Kaiser Family Foundation study, Brodie and other authors also said the decline in coverage might reflect "the usual and customary news practice of focusing on other issues when an epidemic switches to a global focus, when there are no major new developments in terms of vaccines and treatment, and when the epidemic affects a small and increasingly marginalized population in the U.S."

The challenge for reporters covering HIV/AIDS, the study concluded, is "to find new ways to keep their audience engaged in a story that

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 11

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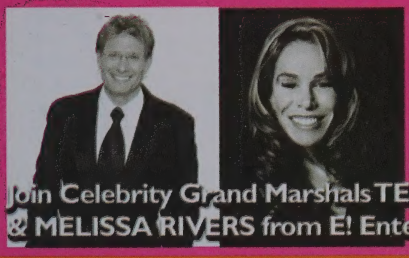

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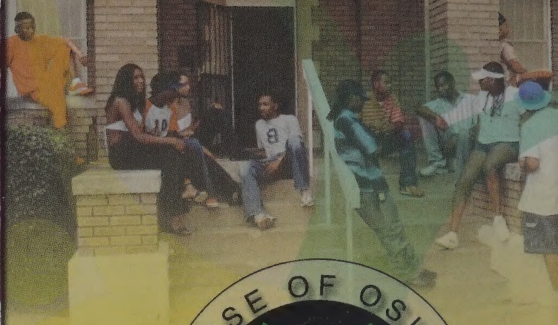

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may not meet editorial standards for 'news' as clearly as it once did."

The study looked at stories in national newspapers – New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, and USA Today; regional newspapers – the San Francisco Chronicle, Miami Herald, and Los Angeles Times; and major broadcast news programs – ABC World News Tonight, CBS Evening News, and NBC Nightly News.

The peak of reporting about HIV and AIDS came in 1987, with nearly 5,000 news stories related to the epidemic appearing, and steadily declined to fewer than1,000 stories in 2002.

"When dealing with news impacting our community and people who are HIV-infected, the less news coverage, the less it's on people's minds," says Michael Cover, a spokesperson for Whitman-Walker Clinic, D.C.'s largest AIDS service organization, which also devotes itself to gay and lesbian health issues in general.

"We depend on keeping HIV on the radar screen," Cover says. "When you look at it from a health care perspective, it's easy for people to forget or to get tired of it and not protect themselves from HIV."

SOME OF THE most surprising data in the study relates to how media coverage correlates to the groups most affected by HIV. The authors of the study noted that while 100 percent of stories about HIV/AIDS, as portrayed by the news media in 1981, were about gay men, this figure declined to 5 percent in 1986, and remained the same or lower through 2002.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Center for Disease Control & Prevention in Atlanta has said that there has been a 17.7 percent increase in HIV diagnosis among gay men since 1999.

Similarly, only 3 percent of all the news stories over the 21 years covered in the study were about racial minorities in the United States, though the CDC reports that more than half of the new HIV cases in the United States in 2002 were among African Americans.

"I think even before you get to the specifics of which community is most affected at this moment in the timeline of AIDS, it's still difficult to get the attention of an editor to get space or airtime," says Jackie Judd, an Emmy-winning former correspondent for ABC News who currently is a senior fellow at the Kaiser Family Foundation. "AIDS has been around for a long time, and editors always want to see something new."

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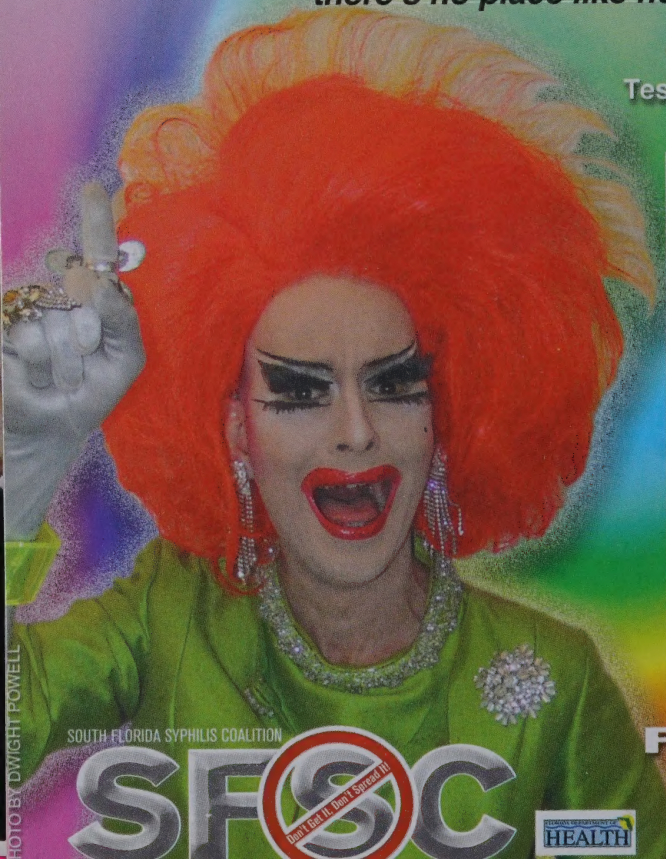

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By CHRISTOPHER SEELY

Crystal Meth

'fueling' STD rise in gay men

New data says gay men comprise 60 percent of syphilis cases in U.S.

A rapidly increasing percentage of new syphilis infections in gay men are linked to use of crystal methamphetamine, a popular party drug, according to reports released this week at the National STD Conference in Philadelphia.

STD prevention agencies face a "double-headed challenge" to overcome complacency in the public and increasing resistance to STD medications, said Dr. Ron Valdiserri, deputy director of the National Center for HIV, STD & TB Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, which hosted the conference.

"We have a real challenge here dealing with an American public that clearly is uncomfortable talking about STD infections, and I think many members of the American public and people at risk tend to minimize these infections," he said.

Among the many studies discussed at the four-day conference were reports with "new data on factors fueling increased rates" of STD transmission among gay men, Valdiserri said.

Some of the most striking data reported in the studies linked the use of crystal methamphetamine to new cases of syphilis among gay men, said Dr. Gordon Mansergh, a behavioral scientist at CDC.

"We've seen that crystal meth has increased ... as it moves to the East Coast," Mansergh said.

After a decade of decline in syphilis cases, the CDC started noticing an upturn in syphilis infections three years ago, primarily in gay men, said Ron Valdiserri, deputy director of the National Center for HIV, STD & TB Prevention at the CDC.

The CDC reported 1,263 gay men visited the San Francisco Department of Public Health clinic between November 2002 and March 2003, and 17.4 percent of those men reported crystal meth use in the four weeks leading up to the clinic visit.

Those crystal meth users were 2.2 times more likely to be diagnosed as HIV-positive and 4.9 times as likely to be diagnosed with syphilis, according to Mansergh.

The syphilis infection rate increased even more among men who used Viagra in combination with crystal, according to data from a 2001 survey in San Francisco.

"Men who used crystal meth and Viagra together were 6.1 times as likely to have syphilis," Mansergh said.

Data from the 2001 survey demonstrate how men on crystal meth put themselves at a higher risk than men who do not take

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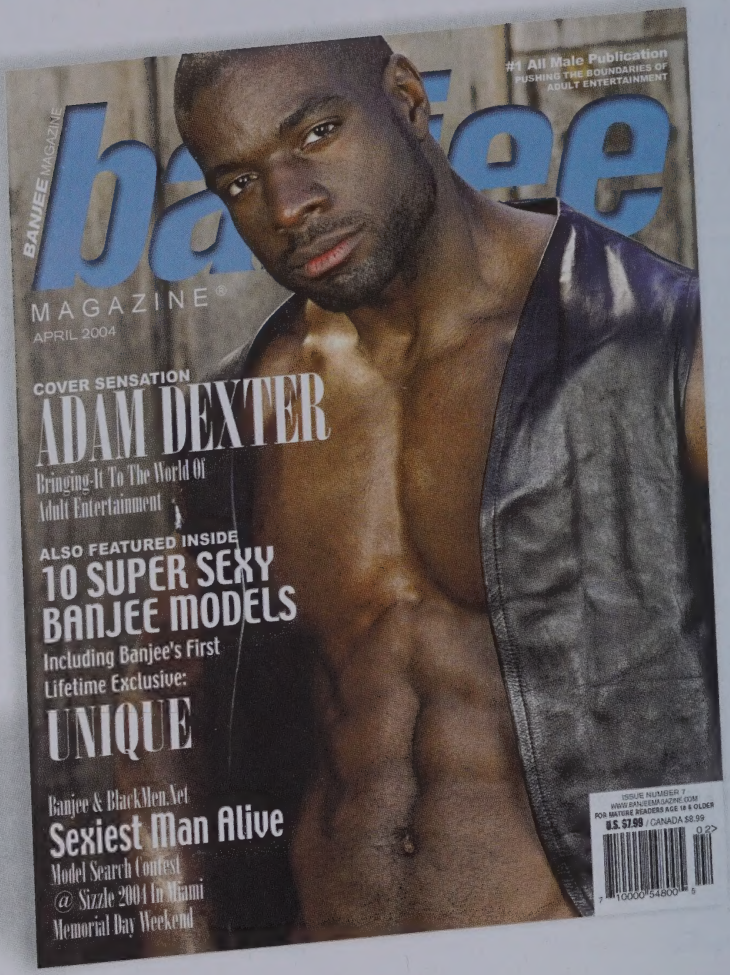

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METH CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

the drug, according to Mansergh.

Men who took crystal meth were twice as likely to engage in unprotected receptive anal intercourse as men who did not take the drug, and men who took Viagra were 6.5 times as likely to have unprotected insertive anal intercourse than men who did not, he said.

Over the past four years, U.S. syphilis cases among gay men have risen 12-fold, said Dr. John Douglas, director of the division of STD prevention at CDC.

Another study conducted by the CDC between 1999 and 2003 indicates that syphilis is spreading at faster rates among gay men than lesbians or heterosexuals.

The syphilis increase may be a "precursor of worse things to come," Douglas said. "Syphilis tends to be a biologic amplifier of HIV transmission."

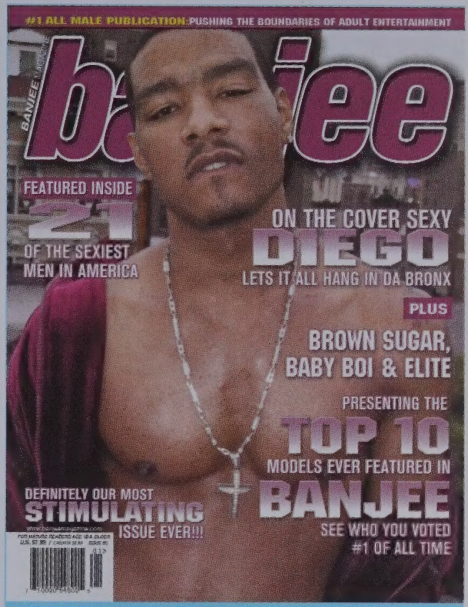
In 1999, the CDC estimated that only five percent of all reported syphilis cases in the U.S. were among men who have sex with men. By 2003, that percentage increased to 60 percent, Douglas said.

Before this study, the CDC's prevention efforts targeted heterosexuals, where the disease was an "overwhelming problem," he said.

But now, the CDC must adjust its prevention efforts for gay men while maintaining the success it has had among heterosexuals who have seen a decline in syphilis infections since 1999, Douglas said.

"We now realize that we need new, different strategies in homosexual men," Douglas said. "We don't yet reliably communicate information on sexual orientation in people who are diagnosed."

The syphilis study's percentages were not based on actual numbers of gay men who were diagnosed with syphilis, but a statistical model that compared the ratios of men and women diagnosed with syphilis and drew conclusions based on the disproportionate ratios.



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WRITTEN BY IMANI EVANS, MA

We have moved into the age of Aquarius, and it is time to utilize the psycho-spiritual tools essential to creating, maintaining, and sharing a life driven by your Earthly purpose. I believe we all have a life purpose, which is our individual contribution to elevating the human experience, and enriching the Spirit Consciousness. Too often fear keeps us from connecting to our divine purpose. The lessons of our personal journey are gifts of transformation.

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My Personal Journey: My story is one of faith, courage, and perseverance. I strive to model these attributes for people who are looking for a way to live abundantly, and build on a foundation of peace & happiness. I remember, very distinctly, at age 14 being overwhelmed with the feeling that I would be called to speak to the masses. At the time I did not know why, when, or even how this calling would manifest in my life.

By age 25 I had already endured some pretty traumatic circumstances: sexual violence, clinical depression, attempted suicide, and a baffling eating disorder. I remember thinking that The Creator & The Universal Spirit must hate me. I thought...I must have done some horrendous deed to deserve such treatment...but nothing could further from the truth. Now, I am certain that I endured -and survived—those ghastly experiences so that I might give hope to the hopeless...and tell a story of strength in faith.

So where am I today? After much self-exploration, and thought liberation, I am living without lack thinking. I am secure in who I am...and whose I am. Everything in my life begins and ends with my Inner-Spirit. My life is rooted in an unshakeable foundation of inner peace, self-love, and faith. I am consciously living the life of a spiritual being having an Earthly experience, which begins with attention and intention. I have the universe, other souls, and The Creator as the source of my supply---as do we all. It is this "knowingness" that enables me to face any challenge, and, then, share my lessons/gifts with others.

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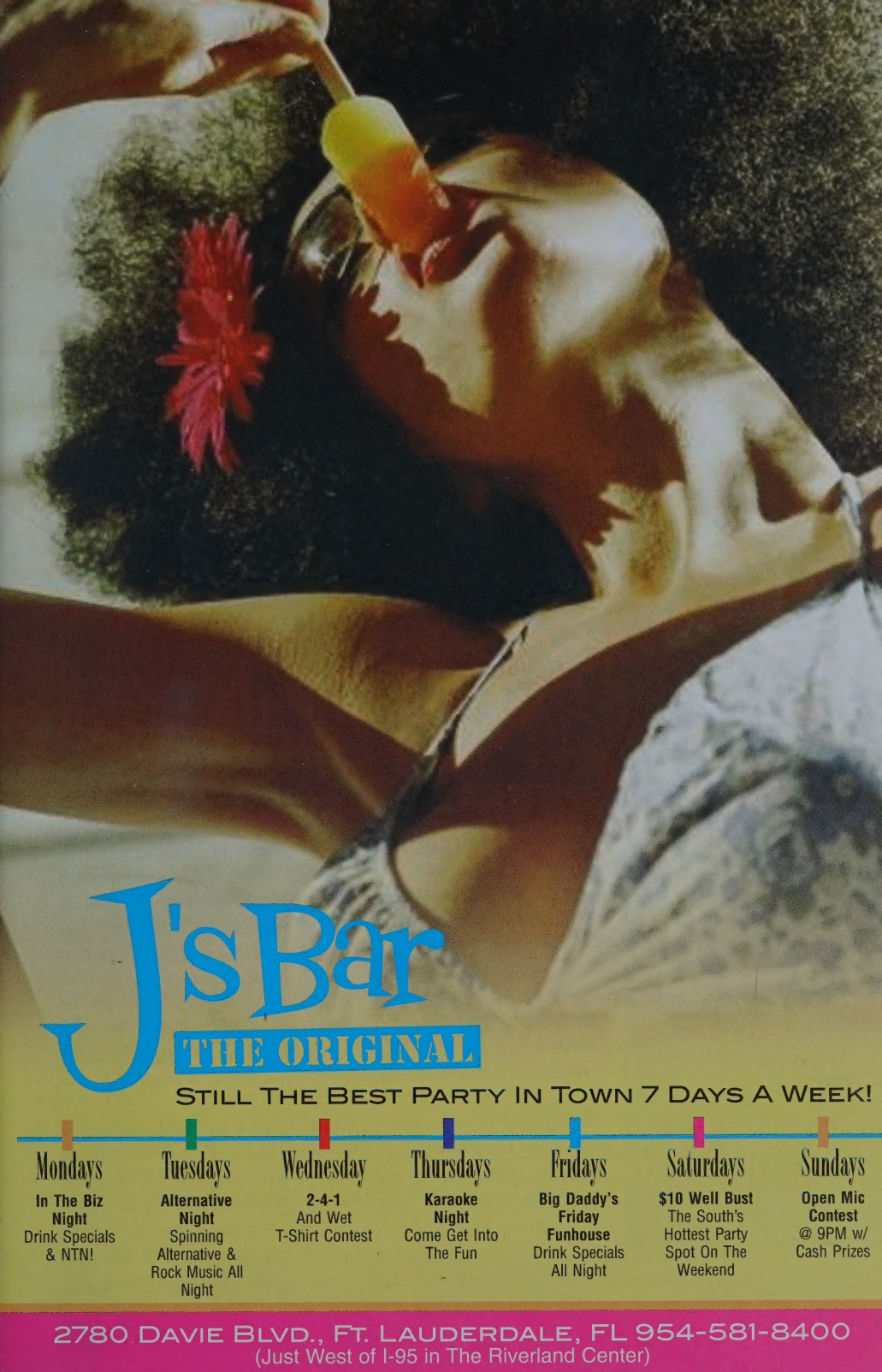
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In The Biz Night
Drink Specials & NTN!
Tuesdays
Alternative Night
Spinning Alternative & Rock Music All Night
Wednesday
2-4-1
And Wet T-Shirt Contest
Thursdays
Karaoke Night
Come Get Into The Fun
Fridays
Big Daddy's Friday Funhouse
Drink Specials All Night
Saturdays
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The South's Hottest Party Spot On The Weekend
Sundays
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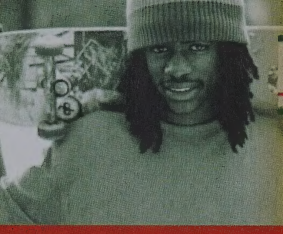
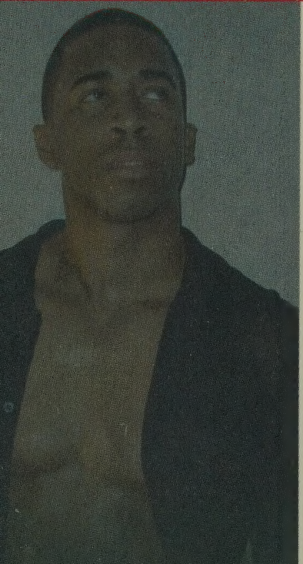


H O U S T O N

YOUNG MEN SAVING MEN

YMSM is a community empowerment project of the Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation.



EDUCATE
EMPOWER
EMBRACE
PROTECT
AND LIVE...

The Young Men Saving Men project has a diverse array of programmatic outreaches and interventions. One of the interventions is titled, Safe Talk, a three hour culturally appropriate behavioral skills-based workshop designed for gay and bisexual men to affirm the racial, ethnic, and sexual identities of the participants and to give them support as they make healthy choices about their sexual activities. In addition, Many Men, Many Voices, an effective six-session intervention intended for gay men of color to influence behavior change for HIV/STD prevention. Men share their own personal stories, their lack of acceptance by families and communities, their association with sex and power and relate these experiences to how they feel about themselves, their attitudes and beliefs, and their risky sexual behaviors. The YMSM program has other sessions as well: Self Esteem & Coming Out, Sexism, Homophobia, & Racism, and Eating Out: A Sex Buffet.

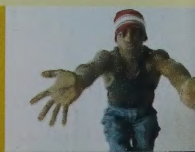
The Young Men Saving Men project has an Advisory Task Force formed to empower the AAYMSM community. It is a group of AAYMSM who come together the third Wednesday of every month to formulate a strategic plan of activities and prevention interventions for the AAYMSM community. The Advisory Task Force informs the YMSM staff of the needs of the AAYMSM population in Houston, hence, serving as the voice of the people. It sets the tone and the direction for numerous undertakings that the YMSM program oversees and guides. YMSM urges its Advisory Task Force members to express their leadership through peer counseling, mentoring, and participation in YMSM community activities. The Advisory Task Force also contributes in the development of program initiatives and supports the YMSM staff to ensure programs are conducted in a culturally competent and sensitive manner.

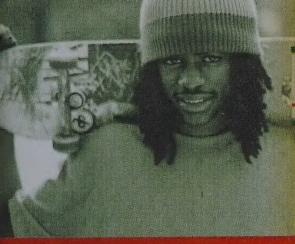
The Young Men Saving Men staff consists of a Program Director, Project Coordinator, Community Involvement Coordinator, Prevention Case Manager, Data Collection Specialist, and Community Outreach/Communications Specialist.

This year, the YMSM program is actively involved in Houston's Black Gay Pride. Black Gay Pride is from Thursday, April 29, 2004 - Monday, May 3, 2004. Our staff, members of the Advisory Task Force, and volunteers will perform street outreach the last hour and a half each night at the differ-

YMSM Drop-In Center, 1403 Wheeler, Houston, Texas 77004
(713) 526-1979 office • (713) 526-1976 fax • 1-800-455-YMSM

ALL SERVICES ARE CONFIDENTIAL





H O U S T O N

YOUNG MEN SAVING MEN

YMSM is a community empowerment project of the Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation.

ent pride venues. Furthermore, YMSM will be facilitating three afternoon workshops Saturday at the host hotel, the Renaissance Hotel located at 6 Greenway Plaza East, Houston, TX 77046: 1) Men on Tha Down Low & The Alarming HIV Rates of Black Women, 12:00 p.m. 2) Tops & Bottoms, 12:30 p.m. 3) Legal Love & Liability for Gay Men of Color, 1:00 p.m.

The Young Men Saving Men program is also conducting a behavioral study on AAYMSM. This study is of vast significance for the program because the only way to determine what actions need to be implemented in the AAYMSM community is to know the risky behaviors being practiced. An epidemiological profile, a socio-demographical overview of the AAYMSM community which measures the impact of HIV/AIDS in the Houston metropolitan area, a hierarchy of risks for becoming infected with HIV, and the geographic distribution of HIV/AIDS cases in the Houston metropolitan area will be tabulated from the results of the behavioral study. A needs assessment and a gap analysis will also be conducted to determine the needs the AAYMSM community and the existing gaps in services targeting this high-risk population.

The Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation received a five year grant to develop and facilitate a strategic alliance that will improve delivery of HIV prevention and care services to AAYMSM and their partners. The YMSM program created C.O.B.R.A. (Coalition Of Blacks Responding to AIDS) to improve delivery of HIV prevention and care services to AAYMSM. The Coalition encompasses staff from local health departments, planning groups, and community based organizations (CBOs) that work together to increase involvement of AAYMSM. In short, COBRA is an alliance of community stakeholders that assist one another in developing linkages and delivering HIV prevention services to AAYMSM and their partners in Houston.

YMSM provides you and your partner with:

- An Opportunity to Voice Your Concerns
- Free HIV/STI Counseling and Testing
- Safer Sex Education
- Peer Counseling
- Risk Reduction Education
- Referral Services
- Depression Counseling
- Self Esteem Development
- Drug and Alcohol Awareness
- Decision Making/Partner Negotiation
- Prevention Case Management
- Leadership Training
- Social and Recreational Activities
- Volunteer Opportunities
- A Safe Social Environmen

In conclusion, the ground rules for YMSM program are mutual respect, self love, and confidentiality. YMSM promotes activities that incorporate sex positive, gay positive, and black & brown positive messages. Additionally, YMSM encourages social activism and self-esteem motivation, recognizes the major role that peer influence plays in the lives of AAYMSM, and creates a setting where AAYMSM can express their identities with each other, find support, and band together to take action on issues of importance to their unique community. The YMSM program designs and implements intervention activities to foster a sense of ownership of the program and a sense of personal commitment to HIV prevention by facilitating a process for AAYMSM to actively communicate ideas towards safer sex in a fun and uplifting manner.

Brother To Brother

A Miasma Films Production

In Association with C-Hundred Film Corp. and Intrinsic Value Films

Winner-2004 Sundance Film Festival-Special Jury Prize

Brother To Brother is a feature length narrative film which follows the emotional and psychological journey of a young Black gay artist as he discovers the hidden legacies of the gay and lesbian subcultures within the Harlem Renaissance.

After being found in an intimate, sexual encounter with another young man, Perry is thrown out of his house by his family and forced to survive on his own. As he struggles to hold on by working in a homeless shelter and trying to maintain a college scholarship, he is haunted by his homosexuality and becomes increasingly withdrawn due to his family's rejection of him and their condemnation of his desires. As his friend Marcus is performing his new poetry for him, an elderly man, Bruce, appears seemingly out of nowhere and begins reciting verse to them. He disappears just as quickly and elusively as he arrived, before they get a chance to talk to him. In his library research for a class project, Perry finds a book about the Harlem Renaissance and recognizes a poem ("Smoke, Lilies and Jade" by Bruce Nugent) as the same one that the elderly man was reciting. They encounter each

MIAMI GAY & LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL
April 23 - May 2, 2004

EAST COAST PREMIERE

Saturday, April 24th @ 9:30pm
at the Regal Cinema
South Beach, Florida

Rodney Evans is the recipient of The Independent Feature Project's Gordon Parks Award for Screenwriting for his screenplay, Brother To Brother. He also recently received funding from The Jerome Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation and ITVS towards the writing and production of this new project. **Brother To Brother premiered at the 2004 Sundance Film Festival where it won the Special Jury Prize for passion in filmmaking.** The film had its European premiere at The Berlin International Film Festival in February, 2004. His autobiographical film, Close To Home, has been shown at over 30 film festivals throughout the world. His last feature-length project, The Unveiling, opened theatrically in LA and New York in 1998.

CRITICS CORNER

"Breathtaking....a fascinating and absorbing tale...heralds the emergence of an exciting new voice in black filmmaking"
-Kirk Honeycutt, The Hollywood Reporter

"The story Evans tells of the spiritual link between a contemporary black gay New York artist and the trailblazers of the 1930's Harlem Renaissance is an excitingly ambitious one, conveyed with guileless passion of purpose"
-Owen Gleiberman, Entertainment Weekly

"Brother To Brother brings depth and intelligence to black politics and sexuality"
David Rooney, Variety

"A brave and unique voice in American cinema....Rich in heart and intelligence, Rodney Evans's first fiction feature pays homage to art, intellectual ancestry and the strength to persevere in the face of social injustice"
Shari Frilot, Sundance Film Festival

other again at the homeless shelter where Perry works. He confronts Bruce about who he is and begins to ask him about the Harlem Renaissance. They go on a literal and metaphorical journey to the house that was known as "Niggeratti Manor" which was the creative center for the younger, rebellious generation of the Harlem Renaissance as they created their revolutionary literary journal, "Fire!". Although the house is now dilapidated, we are transported through the landscape of Bruce's memories of the glory days of the Harlem Renaissance. Perry learns about the lives and personalities of Wallace Thurman, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston and Aaron Douglas and sees how they became a surrogate family for Bruce. Perry begins to recognize this era as his history. He sees the pride that Bruce exuded in those times in terms of being Black, gay and unashamed. His pride and self-esteem begin to have an empowering effect on Perry as he gains a stronger sense of his identity. As the story progresses, we witness the transformative power that they have on each other's lives through their shared passion for art and storytelling.

Miami, Florida - March 16, 2004 - The prestigious Sixth Annual Miami Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, presented by HBO, has unveiled the line-up of the best gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered films that will be featured during the 10 day event from April 23rd to May 2nd. The screenings will take place at the historic Gusman Center for the Performing Arts (in downtown Miami), the Shores Performing Arts Center, the Regal Cinema South Beach, The Miami Beach Cinematheque and Cinema Paradiso (located in Fort Lauderdale).

The Miami Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, a critically acclaimed event, is held in the world-renowned historic South Beach neighborhood and features films by, about and of interest to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities.

Additional screenings, educational and social events occur throughout the year.

General Contact Information
Miami Gay & Lesbian Film Festival
1521 Alton Road, #147
Miami Beach, Fl 33139
Voice 305-534-9924
Fax 305-535-2377
Email: info@miamigaylesbianfilm.com
Website: miamigaylesbianfilm.com

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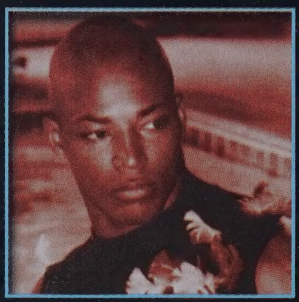

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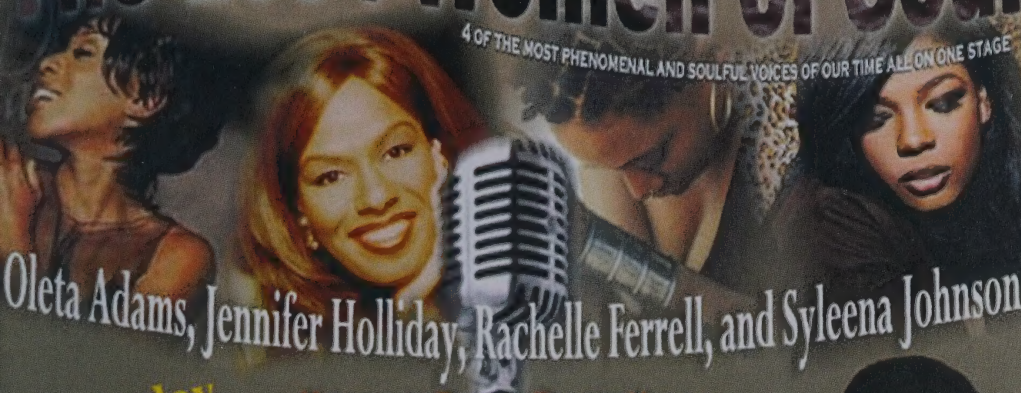

Oleta Adams, Jennifer Holliday, Rachelle Ferrell, and Syleena Johnson

Saturday
April 24, 2004
8PM

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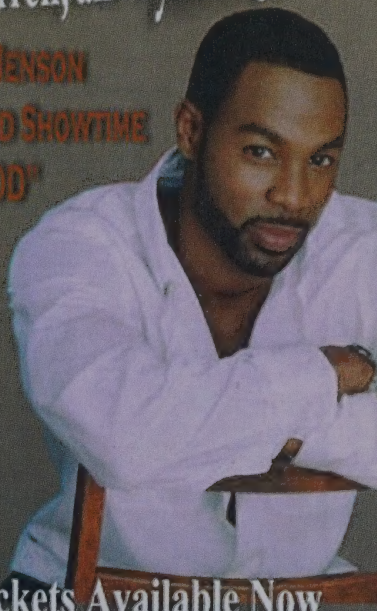
OF THE CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED SHOWTIME
ORIGINAL SERIES "SOUL FOOD"



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or call Xtreme Entertainment @ (770) 991-6929

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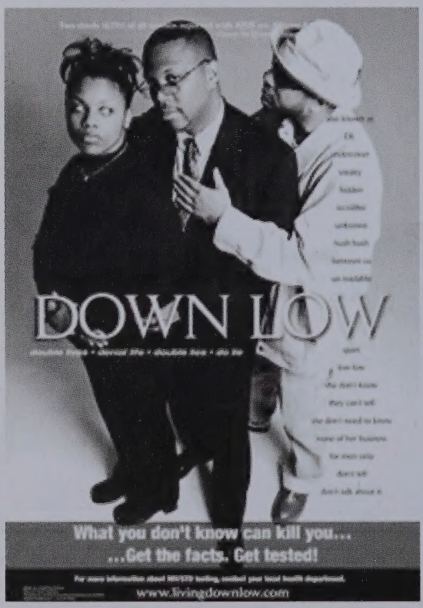
"QUALITY ENTERTAINMENT FOR QUALITY PEOPLE"

Just How Cool Are DL Brothers?

Down Low Or Double Life

This is not a very nice topic to discuss but I feel I need to share this information with my sisters. Kisha & I went to a seminar where a man named J.L. King was speaking on the subject of "DL Brothers". The "DL" stands for Down Low or Double Lives. Now, what makes this so interesting is that Mr. King is a DL brother. South Carolina is #8 in the nation for HIV/AIDS new cases. African American women are 80% of all new cases and they are contracting the virus from men who are having sex with other men but they are doing this on the "Down Low". These men say they are not gay....they are heterosexual but just sleep with men once in a while. These are men who work in the church as officers, men who are leaders in the community, men that say they hate those "faggots".



Mr. King shared his life story and said he knows a lot of "DL" brothers in the NBA/NFL and even in the entertainment world and to prove his point: On Thursday, the director of the Tri-County Collaboration for the prevention of HIV/AIDS, Valerie King (no relation) took J.L. to a Charleston Club and introduced him to 5 men she knew. These men were respected men at work and church. Valerie excused herself for about 15-20 minutes. In that time J.L. had gotten 3 of the 5 men's phone numbers to hook up with later. By the end of the evening he also got 10 female numbers. He said the reason he is talking about this is his fear that his grown daughter may run into a "DL" brother and never know.

These men are masters in the art of lying and living that double life. His wife thought it was wonderful that he worked so hard in the church with different men on different projects right up to the time he had to tell her he was HIV positive.

This, needless to say, destroyed his family and his marriage.

He has 3 grown children who now have to live with the knowledge that their father gave their mother HIV and possibly AIDS. I know of one man in my own church who is a "DL" brother and has AIDS. (Because what you do on the "DL" will come out in the light) J.L. mentions that this is a widespread epidemic here in Charleston.

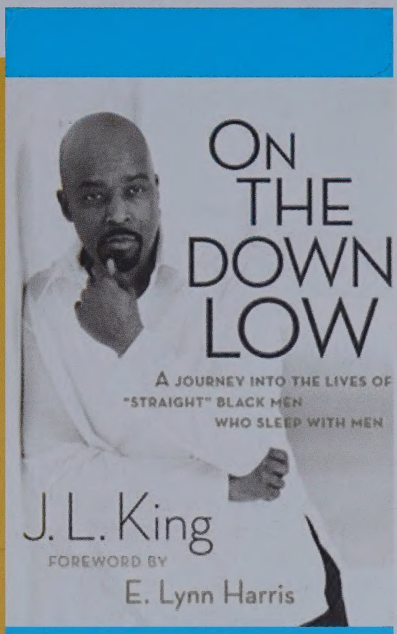
I went on the web site and looked up several references on HIV/AIDS in the South. The numbers are showing whites are going down but African Americans are going up &up...mostly heterosexual African American women. I have been asking myself all week...what is this world coming to? When is God going to say....this is enough. This is truly the work of the enemy! Ladies, this is also praying time. I have shared this with my youngest daughter too! I'm going to pass this message to as many females I know and I pray you do the same.

Once we understand that HIV/AIDS is not something that is just happening in Africa, that it is preventable, and that we as black women understand the importance of knowledge on the subject then maybe we can make a difference.

The most important thing in communication is to hear what isn't being said.
Peter F. Drucker

For More Information Visit:
http://www.livingdownlow.com/

Mr. King is a national HIV prevention educator, activist, author, and producer who specializes in the analysis of the behavior and lifestyles of African American men who have sex with men, but do not consider themselves gay, bisexual or homosexual—men on the "Down Low." He has interviewed over 2,500 men who are living on the DL.



TOP QUESTIONS ASKED ABOUT THE DOWN LOW BEHAVIOR:

Note: The answers to these questions and much more will be in the book, please make sure you get your copy on **MAY 10, 2004.**

1. How can I tell if my man is on the DL?
2. Why won't he just choose a man and leave me alone?
3. What is it about sex with a man that is better than with a women?
4. Is this a learned behavior or are men born with this desire?
5. Why don't down low men practice safer sex?
6. Will he ever stop having sex with men?
7. How many men are on the down low?
8. When did this start?
9. Why won't he be honest?
10. Do white men live on the Down low?
11. What about women on the down low?
12. Why are you doing this work?
13. What did your children say when they found out about you?
14. How did you get started?
15. What kind of relationship do you have with your ex wife?
16. Do you date women?
17. What do you tell women before you have sex with them?
18. How do I get my man to wear condoms?

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Xtreme Entertainment was established in October 2002 by a group of four friends seeking to enhance the quality of entertainment and night life in Metro-Atlanta. The initial project was to market a night club promotion to a specific target audience. After a successful launch of this promotion, Xtreme Entertainment began to gain recognition from both customers and competitors and quickly developed a reputation for providing the best in entertainment and night life.

Based in Atlanta, Georgia, Xtreme Entertainment has now established itself as one of the fastest growing entertainment companies in the southeast. As a nationally recognized company, Xtreme Entertainment has continuously explored new business opportunities and is now marketing and promoting several events simultaneously.

Xtreme Entertainment has established a reputation for providing the very best in quality entertainment and special events. From this reputation, the company has branded itself by establishing the philosophy and slogan "Quality Entertainment for Quality People".

XTREMEMISSION

To provide the very best in marketing, promotions and special events planning. To provide service excellence and to always remain cognizant of the needs of both internal and external customers by creating a professional and hospitable environment for clients, employees and customers.

XTREMEVISION

To be the number one choice of clients seeking to increase awareness of their establishment. Through consistency, professionalism, and quality, Xtreme Entertainment will ensure a hassle free event to ease the client's event planning burden. Xtreme Entertainment's goal is to be consistently in tune with market needs, and to always stay creative, progressive, and fresh in its ideas and concepts.

XTREMEPROFILE

Xtreme is comprised of four principals, a small staff and a few contracted vendors, that plan, promote and manage events. Xtreme is the answer to the demands of clients both new and old in need of assistance increasing exposure to their business. Each of the four principals brings years of knowledge and expertise to the field of marketing, promotions and events planning. Their backgrounds are well versed in all facets of entertainment in addition to their practical business experience.

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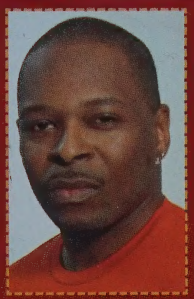
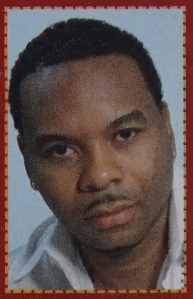


DERECK WALLACE
is a native of Northern California. Dereck always been known to have a keen sense of what it takes to create and breathe life into a sensational event.

GREGORY ALLEN
is a native of Pompano Beach, Fl. He holds a BS Degree in Organizational Management from St. Paul's College, and a MS Degree in Human Resource Management from Troy State U.

GREG DOUGLAS
is a native of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. Greg has more than 10 years experience reaching African American urban markets



JOHN MOORE
is a native of Nashville, Tennessee. He attended Tennessee State University where he majored in Business Administration.

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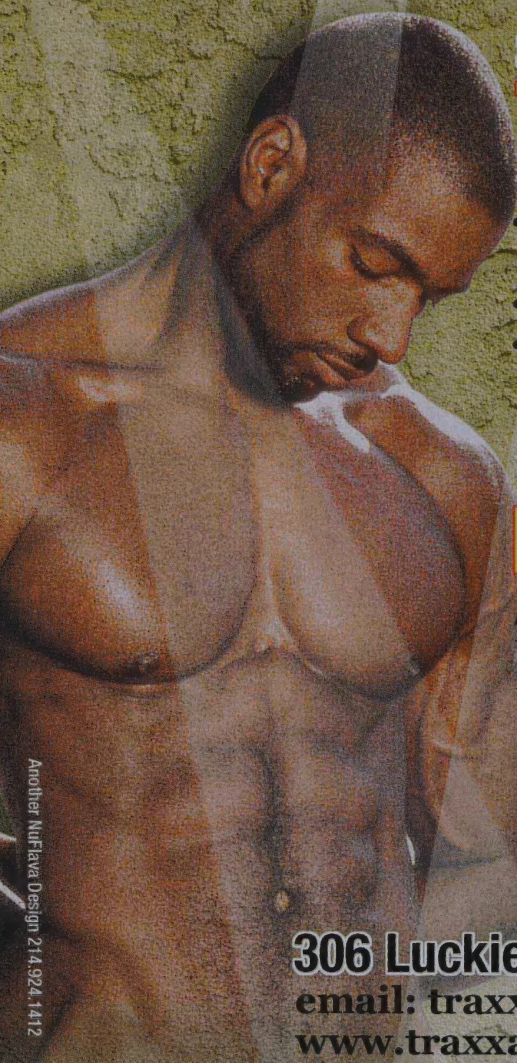

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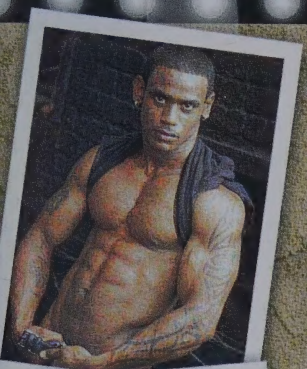
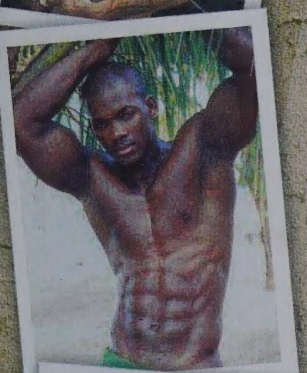


SAT. APRIL 17, 2004
The TRAXX Reunion Party

"Watch history repeat itself"

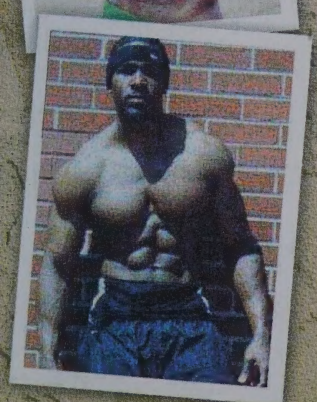
Do you remember the Ritz, Goodies, Friends, Alexander's & the Legendary Traxx, well this is a party you will not forget.



SAT. APRIL 24, 2004
The Cosmopolitan Party

"A function for the chic, the grown and the sexy"

- Complimentary cosmopolitans courtesy of Ph.D. Entertainment until midnight



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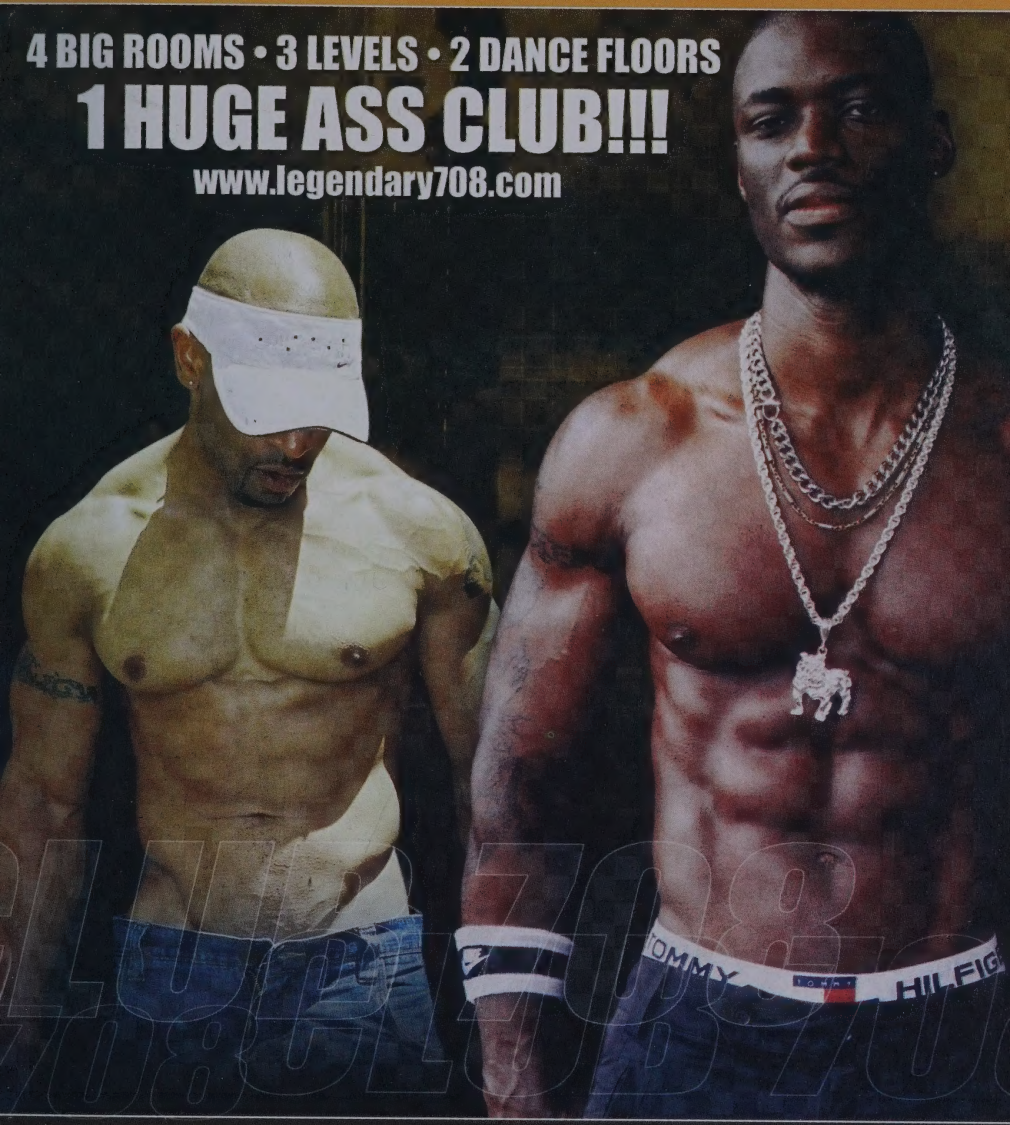
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Exploding Passions

A retrospective on the evolution of the Black Pride Movement

By: Darryl!

"...Thy Kingdom come, thy Will be done, as it is in heaven. Give us this day...." There is a journey that every person must take for her/himself. It is a journey of self -discovery and enlightenment. This journey will travel through what seems like the bowels of hell, the straights of purgatory, and the fjords of possibility until finally reaching a safe haven. No two journeys are exactly alike but they are in fact so similar that no matter where one starts the journey inevitably some of the same kinds of experiences are notated in the footnotes and references of the facts of the journey. This journey will cause one to experience passion at new levels. Filled with moments of exquisite ecstasy, unbridled lusts, personal anguish, self-doubt, ultimate healing, and personal fulfillment the experience is bound to leave its indelible mark on life forever.

There are religious overtones and society's judging eye provides undertones that will disrupt the journey. But there are opportunities for focus and strength building- called by many names- each one sounding as sweet and smelling as fresh- but carrying one true theme- PRIDE. This is a story about African-American Pride- the exploding passions and the evolution of the spring and summer cotillions that seek to offer hope and guidance to all who would enter in.

There you are standing in the lobby of the Majestic Hotel and Conference Center. The organizers promised, "No shortage of EVERYTHING you will need and want to have" this weekend. And for the first time you find yourself standing in a sea of Black beauty. There is a constant buzz of excitement as people stand around hugging, smiling, and getting acquainted (or reacquainted as the case may be). You are awestruck. Standing there you feel like you have never felt before there are no words to describe... your thoughts race, your eyes feast, your heart pounds, you feel like if you don't move you will explode. All at once you want

someone to speak but you fear anyone speaking - you have no idea what to say.

As you begin to walk through the throng of faces and bodies you become incredibly self aware- concerned about your appearance and you begin to think (do I look alright, is my hair right, will anyone like me, what if I..., or if someone touches..., or if I want to...) thoughts that move so quickly that

you can get neither answer or question completed before the next one swirls through. You have never seen so many phine people in your life, all at one time, in one place, possibly for the same reasons.

As you stand there a stranger speeds by and without looking in your face or speaking directly hands you a Xeroxed pieces of colored paper and says "come on up we're partying 24 hours a day all weekend long- we got everything you need." Before you could respond the stranger's gone and you are left with dozens of questions and this colored piece of paper. You look down at the paper and your heart almost stops, skips a few beats and you almost lose your carefully crafted pose. In your hand you find your first direct introduction to the event you are attending- it's a very exhilarating and picturesque invitation to "One incredible experience" a "sex party in RM 2307. Call first you will be met at the elevator and escorted... clothes will be bagged at the door... don't bring valuables... no sightseers... free dental dams, condoms and lube all colors, flavors, and sizes. No toys allowed. Plenty of action to get your freak on- three rooms of pleasure."

You feel flush, you quickly fold the paper and look around to see who's been watching you- fearing someone will know your thoughts and see what you've been reading. You look around for the stranger to ask a question but you see only an ever-increasing parade of people. Your curiosity is rising. Just then one of the organizers comes by. People yell out "Waaz up?," "I got my pass...," " when's the first event?," and so on. You are pulled into the group and for the first time feel safe. A gorgeous woman puts her arms around you "hey boo how you doin'" the words drip like sweet sliced peaches off her tongue- you are mesmerized. You stutter "I'm ai'ight, thank you." She smiles an understanding smile "this is your first time here... where you from sweetie?" You feel encouraged albeit a bit embarrassed that you have been so easily clocked and exposed, "Yes... from Lossetenstate, Iowa." "Shit, you got blacks in Iowa...well anyway your are welcome here. If you need anything I'm Allysha and over there is EJ, Candy and Kordavious; we're part of the organization anything you need go to that table and we can help you, 'k?"

Before you could say 'thank you' you hear a slamming beat and a song you've never heard before, the crowd converges and then parts revealing "Lady Destiny" singing about her milkshake! She was shaking and dancing and everyone seemed to be excited. People are clapping hands, and swaying with each other, and hollering out "Walk bitch...walk," "All riiight miss thang work it." "That's right gyrl my milkshake brings 'em out too- and I do mean OUT!" She brushed past you smelling like White Diamonds dressed Prada down. She had on what seemed like 9inch heals and never missed a beat. You watch as the entourage carrying bags and garments, (and a lot of stuff) got on the elevator. The crowd returned to its continual buzz of excitement.

Quickly you turn to the table, reg-

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ister, and get your PRIDE pass and information guide. You look at the schedule and see the first pool event starts in 20 minutes so you head back to your room to get ready. Little do you know what you are in for this weekend!

This scenario may be familiar or similar to stories you've heard. And this is why Black Pride events are so needed. Many of our people have not been exposed to positive images of themselves or of same gender loving/attracted people. Unfortunately we have allowed the images of us to be profuse with images of sex and violence. The "religious conservatives" have damned us to hell and conspired with political conservatives and thin skinned liberals to relegate us to a group net deserving of equal rights because we somehow choose to be deviant from society's demand to join in relationships that neither suit us or them.

Where does one go to fell whole and supported? Beyond the need to just release tension and feel free. Beyond the staring judgmental gaze of "loving" family and friends; beyond the reach of "concerned" clergy and disapproving leaders; and beyond self-hatred and loathing? Fortunately in our community there are conclaves of opportunities to regenerate, rejuvenate, and re-invent us. For the unsuspecting attendee these events do not just pop up like windows on a computer screen. It has taken suffering through brutality, hatred, anger, legal constraints, and unity building efforts to bring to you the series of Circuit parties and Pride events we now enjoy through-out this country. From the west coast to the east coast from the north to the south there are nearly 36 known Black Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Prides and circuit parties. There are a host of circuit parties in various places that, while not boasting to be a Pride event, serve much the same purpose as a Pride. In fact the truth be told the Black Gay pride movement was spawned from our leaders and promoters who first took the plunge and created circuit parties.

As a national advocate and activist for our community (having served as the former Secretary of the International Federation of Black Prides, former Executive Director of In The Life Atlanta, and helped the organizers of the original Memphis Black Pride) I have had the opportunity to meet some of the the founders and learn of our great legacy in bringing equality and justice to our people. This legacy is rich and powerful. It is ours and we must claim it in its entirety, the good, bad, ugly, the bold and the beautiful. This is a retrospective and I will continue to work to gather complete histories and herstories of the developments in our movement from each local event so that we can take great pride in ourselves and in what we have been able to accomplish in the past 25-30 years. What you will find in this retrospective is a respect for the passion of the organizers and leaders who took a chance and stood up to make Pride something we could not only imagine but grasp within our lifetime. This passion drives most of the leaders and organizers today. It is this passion that we are able to put aside petty differences and past issues to collectively build a national and international movement of Black Prides that build up where others have tried to tear down.

Now it seems that the first known event was the Los Angeles "At The beach" party. While it was not called an official Pride event it served to bring together our brothers, sisters, and bristahs from all over the country to celebrate who we are in the openness of Malibu Beach, California. For years the "children" flocked, during Independence Day weekend (July 4th), to the beach party to see get hooked up, to share stories, to offer strength and encouragement to each other. At this time this was the key place for GLBT people of color to gather, forget for a moment the struggles and pressures of home, and live OUT free lives. This event began informally and was soon organized into one of the most socially and economically powerful events in our history. Since then it has become an official Black Pride.

As a result of the impact of HIV/AIDS on our community and the congregation of Black Gay and Lesbian people in our nations capitol these forces conspired to force leadership of the Black GLBT community and as such DC Black pride was spawned. Officially as the first "Black Pride" event during Memorial Day it offered workshops and seminars. The major venues in the city offered the nightlife and parties. Soon the concept of building community through activism and collaboration spread and DC continued to set the stage for what Black prides are about. Soon it became the first event of the year and marked the beginning of Black Gay Pride season in the USA.

Many people ask the question why do we need a Black Pride when we could just attend the "other" Pride celebrations throughout the nation? Well for an answer to this question we look first to NYC and the team of people there who began promoting Black events during the NYC Pride event. Why was this necessary? Because the non-people of color organizers were not sensitive to the needs and specific concerns that impact Black people. Why do we spend most of our "out" lives in the darkness? Why didn't we attend parades and marches, why didn't we feel comfortable holding our lovers' hands walking down the street? Because the ugly head of racism was and is equally as mean and devastating as the ugly head of heterosexism.

Blacks faced not only discrimination because of sexuality but simply because of the color of their skin. Women were still unequal; despite the changes in legislation, and Jim Crow was a mean and nasty bastard that threatened the safety of our lives on a daily basis. The federal government, religious institutions, and other places where we should have been able to seek refuge turned a blind eye to the disparity of living conditions, economic disadvantages, social inequalities and religious persecutions faced by Blacks daily. Add then Black gayness to the mix and you have a concoction for war. The Black church, which served as the bastion for the civil rights movement, turned a deaf ear to the needs of the minority in its own

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 39

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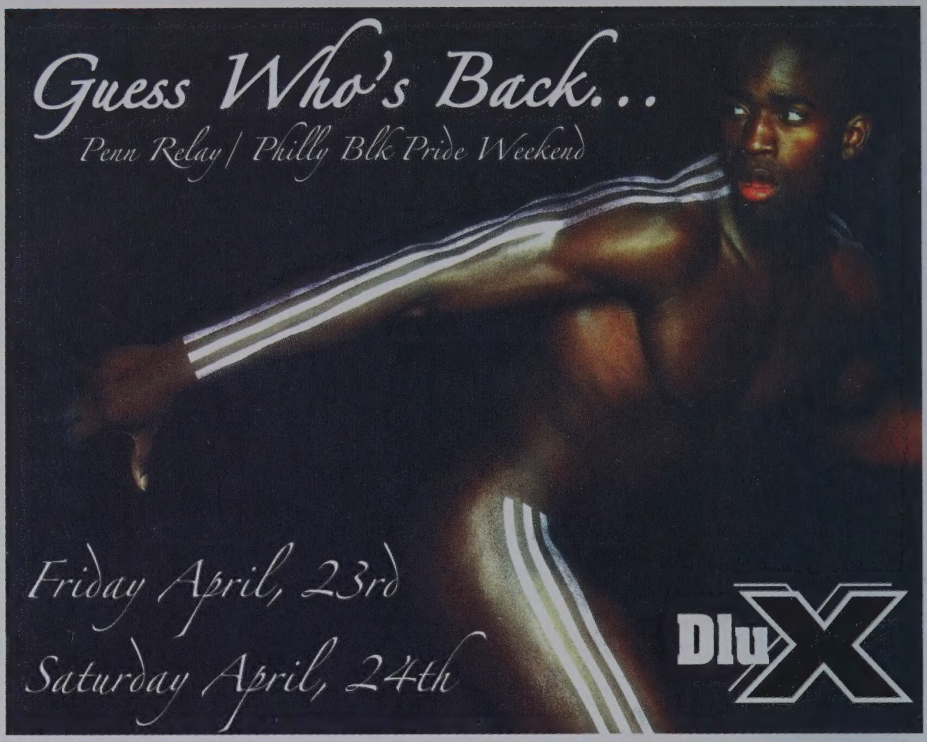

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NEED WE SAY MORE...?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 36

family.

So Black gay people were forced into the closet and into the darkness of the cover of night to experience any kind of personal liberation and freedom. So the nations largest Gay pride, the foundation of the Gay pride movement forgot its darker skinned brothers and sisters. Just because people were gay did not mean they did not carry with them the same social and cultural bigoted ideals. Black women were still objects of desire and black men were commodities to be used for labor and sex as needed.

Our ideas, needs, wants were not included in the discussions. What we had to offer the movement was not considered relevant or important. Realistically the gay movement decided it could not fight a gay rights movement within a civil rights movement at that time. This is not a judgment and it should come as no surprise to either our Caucasian or Black brothers or sisters. In any movement you have to decide what you can do and how effective you can be and you have to make choices. Since our leaders in the civil rights movement failed to support us or include us in any substantive and respectable manner (consider the marginalization of Bayard Rustin and his very significant role in civil and human rights movements in this country and around the world) how could we expect our white counterparts to take on that battle too? Consider too our most prominent and prolific literary, public, and civic giants who were forced often into an obscure silence about their sexuality if they were to enjoy any kind of personal success in their chosen fields.

So instead progressive minded individuals and promoters created events for us, by us, and about us. To this we owe a large debt of gratitude to our NYC family for forging a way and leading by example. They taught us how to make pride profitable and powerful.
But pride was about more that money and power. It was about exposure and visibility. It was a chance to celebrate our entire "being ness" without fear, shame, or regret. The organizers and promoters had a passion to build a platform for us experience life to the fullest.

While we still have a long way to go we are so much better for the efforts of our leaders and ancestors. This is the answer to why there must be Black Prides. Because we as a people have a long way to go in being accepted within our own community as well as other communities we are connected to. No matter what we do we will always be Black first. That is generally the first thing people see and their reactions are based on their presuppositions and prejudgments about us as people. We cannot escape our race or culture. We cannot escape our history or our plight. We can only grow from them. So Black prides exist so that our trans folk, young women and young men, girls and boys, men and women old and young can stand up and be proud of who they are and how they love. Recognizing that this is not a choice but a God given right to exist and a call to greatness in the skin and lives we are given.

On the heals of the NYC movement came Atlanta. For nearly a decade or more Atlanta boasted the greatest party on earth. Labor Day weekend was infamous for bringing the noise and bringing the funk, hot bodies in a hot city. The last hurrah of the year was held in the new Black Mecca and the Black Gay Mecca of the USA. Then In The Life Atlanta, Inc., converted a prominent circuit party into one to South's premier Black Prides still during Labor Day. Along with Hotlanta came Houston Splash. Houston Splash moved the beginning of our celebrations of self and community to April. Soon Florida would begin an event in February offering the community a chance to thaw out from the cold of winter in more northern places.

Along came the organizers for Dallas Black Pride, Chicago Black Pride, Minneapolis BGP, South Africa BP, the Annual Ski Weekend, Adodi Conferences, and C.L.O.V.E weekend, until ultimately we may have nearly 36 known Black Pride events and circuit parties. Blacks are involved in almost every major Pride event organized in the country and our presence is still developing. There are hosts of Circuit Parties, that have taken on a life of their own and provide opportunity and for communities to come together. And there are hosts of Black Prides that we hear about but have yet to get a lot of information on or the organizers are just beginning and the event has yet to gain national exposure.

The most exciting thing is that no matter where you live, from Los Angeles and San Francisco to Seattle, to Phoenix to Las Vegas to Oklahoma to Dallas and Houston, to Birmingham to New Orleans to Memphis to Mississippi to Atlanta, to Indiana to Minneapolis to St. Louis, to Chicago to Milwaukee to Detroit, to Philadelphia to Boston, to New York City, to New Jersey, Washington (DC), Virginia, the Carolinas, to Jacksonville to Tampa to Miami to South Africa, Toronto, and Carnival (and others) we can celebrate who we are all over this great country of ours. But it's up to you. Do we want greatness or do we just want to get by. Take a chance. Join your local organization help build pride, if not for yourself for someone else who is waiting to come out and be free.

Let your passions explode throughout this season in powerful and impactful ways. It's good to get your freak on but also get your mind on- things that will build a better future for yourself and our children. Share your passion and the passion of those who work all year long to bring you the best damn circuit prides and Black Pride events in the world.

This retrospective does not contain a complete and exhaustive history/herstory of the Black Circuit party or Black Pride movement. Please forward information (including timelines, organizers names, events, and local histories/herstories, etc., so that a complete historical document can be developed. Forward information to this author at PO Box 1321 Forest Park, GA 30298 or daryl1@mindspring.com) for future publication. Please note names of individual people were omitted so as to avoid misnaming or leaving any one particular leader or organizer out of this retrospective.

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See Next Issue For Complete Details or visit www.sizzle2004.com

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location: Westin LAX Hotel & Point Dume, Malibu

theme: **Gods & Goddesses**

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	12 noon-2:00 pm **Hieroglyphics Literary Café**
	6:30-10:00 pm **Akhet Welcome Reception**
Saturday:	7:00 am-dusk **Pantheon at the Water's Edge: The Beach Party!**
	10:00 pm-4:00 am **Heliopolis After Party**
Sunday:	1:00 pm-8:00 pm **Sed Festival Pool Party**

beginnings: In the summer of 1988, a group of friends decided to come together to organize and enjoy a day "at the beach" on the 4th of July. Each year, this event has grown in participants and in scope. It has become the nation's largest recognized gay pride celebration for persons of color. The Beach Party, with its attendance of approximately 10,000 persons from all over the country, is now the centerpiece for a series of events known as Los Angeles Black Pride.

Produced by the At The Beach Shorey Inc., Los Angeles Black Pride. 4745 West Slauson Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90056, 323/293-4ATB, info@atbla.com or atbla@aol.com.

John Deshler Photography

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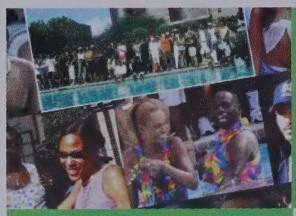

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www.phillyblackpride.org

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HOUSTON, TX
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MIAMI, FL
Sizzle 2004
MAY 27-31
www.sizzle2004.com
305-528-7495

WASHINGTON, DC
DC Black Pride
MAY 28-30
www.dcblackpride.org

JUNE

TAMPA, FL
Central Florida Black Pride
JUNE 7-13
www.floridablackpride.net

NEW YORK, NY
Black Pride NYC
JUNE 21-27
www.blackpridenyc.com

JULY

CHICAGO, IL
Windy City Black Pride
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www.windycitypride.org

JULY

LOS ANGLES, CA
At The Beach LA
JULY 1-4
www.atbla.com

DETROIT, MI
Detroit Pride Hotter Than July
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www.hotterthanjuly.com

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SEPTEMBER

ATLANTA, GA
Atlanta Black Gay Pride
- In The Life Atlanta -
SEPTEMBER 1-6
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DALLAS, TX
Dallas Black Gay & Lesbian Pride
- In The Life Atlanta -
SEPTEMBER 30 - OCT 4
www.dallasblackpride.com

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MISSISSIPPI BLACK PRIDE
OCTOBER 14-17
www.mississippiblackpride.com

OCTOBER

NASHVILLE, TN
Nashville Black Pride
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www.brothersunited.com

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NEW ORLEANS, LA
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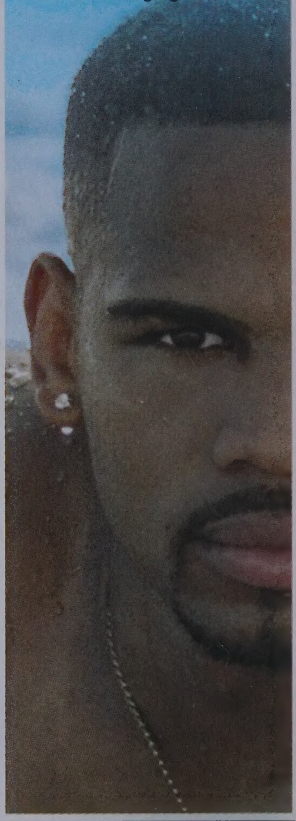

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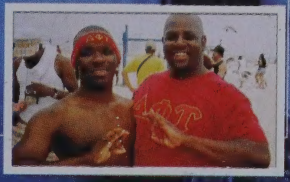

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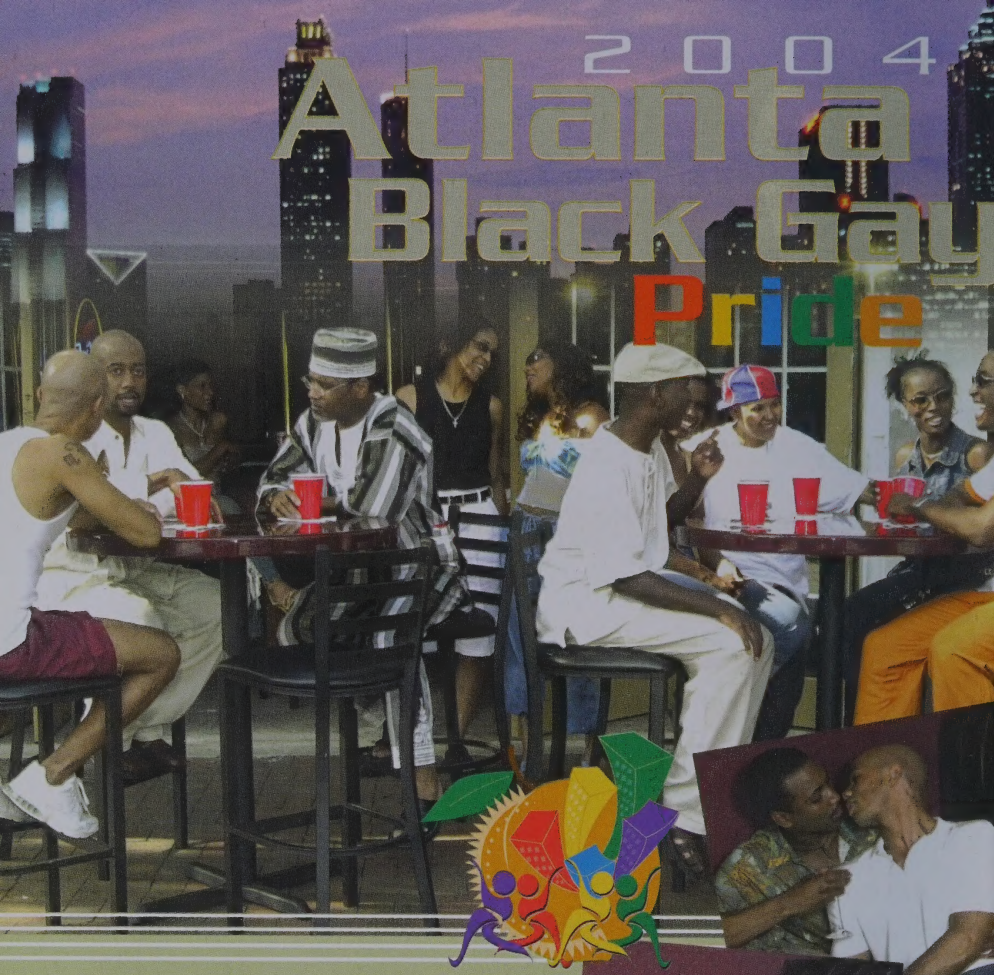
2004

Atlanta Black Gay Pride



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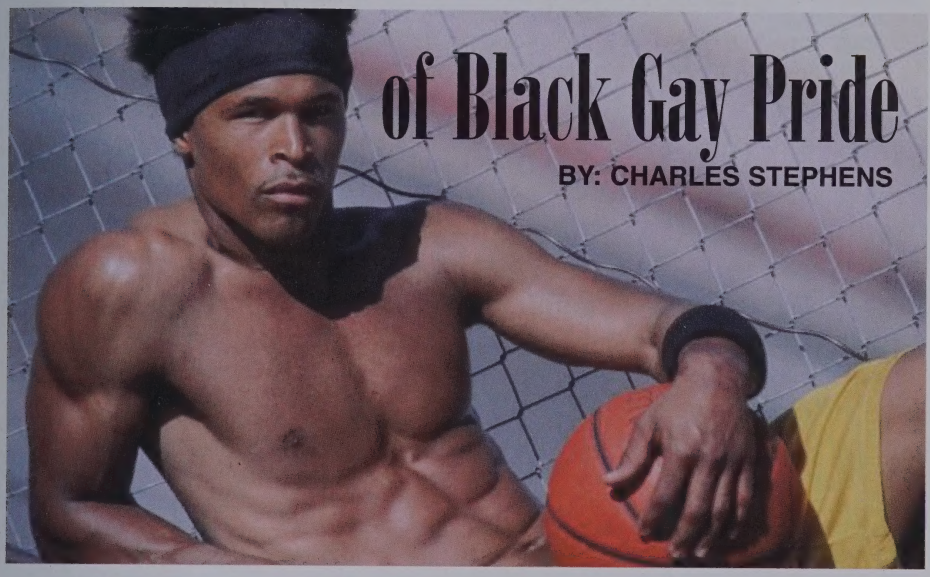
The Sexual Politics of Black Gay Pride



BY: CHARLES STEPHENS

It's a running joke amongst my friends and I that every Labor Day weekend we want to leave the city. Maybe it's the traffic, the wave of glances that welcomes us from the streets of downtown to Lennox Mall, or the intensification of black "fagot-try" in the city. Perhaps it's the circulation of sex party fliers that get passed around from brown hand to brown hand, as other brown hands are passed over for them. However, there is something that brings up the mixed feelings of dread and excitement that is particular to our Black Gay Pride experience.

An acquaintance comes to mind. He got invited to a very well attended and very popular Pride party and a few minutes into the festivities he nearly had a nervous break down. He looked around the room, his palms became sweaty, his heart started racing, and he panicked. Outside, to another friend, after the coast was clear and they were nearing the car, he confided "everyone in there was so attractive, I felt so ugly." Now this particular acquaintance is a big guy, not particular feminine, but not "thugged out" either. He is of average looks, and the part of his body he is most comfortable revealing is his brain. But his own feelings of self-doubt and insecurity were raised to "alert orange" and for his own emotional health he felt, of all times during Black Gay Pride, to not be around black gay men.

It is the unspoken in our community. It is the ugly side to Black Gay Pride. It is the elephant in the room and the ignored contradiction that refuses to be acknowledged let alone dealt with. Sure, if you have spent the majority of the year pumping iron to present the perfect homo thug illusion you might not experience this. If you will pull your shirt over your head without blinking, sag your pants to reveal lines and curves indicative of the all around muscular physique you have meticulously sculpted, then maybe you would not understand. Maybe if you and your friends are those who travel in attractive clusters, Timberlands laced or unlaced appropriately, do-rag just right, hat tilted at the right angle and biceps bulging, you probably have no comprehension of what I am speaking of. But let me break it down

for you, it's the sexual politics of Black Gay Pride.

I have always found the whole notion of Black Gay Pride terribly problematic. I can not recall a Black Gay Pride where I left the weekend feeling extremely proud of being black and gay. Most often the experience is one of alienation, isolation, social anxiety and sexual frustration. I always leave feeling at best ambivalent, and at worse angry. The "why" has always escaped me until now, it's the implicit shame and collective self-hatred that Pride has come to symbolize for me. I am left to wonder why do so many of us leave the weekend feeling like crap?

It has been quite common in therapy circles to analyze the mental health implications of the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the New Year season. It has been proven that suicides are often very high during this time of year, and for gay people it is particularly painful. Strained relationships with families and the heterosexist messages implied by holiday marketing can be quite disturbing to many of us. However, I doubt the Holiday season is any match for Pride. After all the holiday card that I am sent with the happy, white, heterosexual, male dominated family frustrates me as much as the Black Pride party flier with the image that looks nothing like me and not like many of us. Sure, he is black and gay, but I am offended that his body looks nothing like mine and not most people I know, and certainly does not present like me or like most people I know. During Black Gay Pride the events are marketed to us with images oppressive to most of us. Is that not some type of collective self-inflicted abuse; a kind of visual masochism.

Of course critics might suggest that I am a mean spirited hater that desires to ruin everyone's fun. However, I beg to differ! What I have seen is standing around various groups of black gay men, and them beating themselves up because they are not young enough, muscular enough, butch enough, and so on. I think to myself, shouldn't we be celebrating ourselves?

One could also argue that it's the fault of these men that they don't love themselves. However, what good is a gathering of Black l/g/b/t folks if the spaces we create are not supportive and affirming to us? Instead of looking around and marveling at how beautiful we are, whatever shape we come in, many of us look around and feel disconnected.

Some might suggest that pride was never the occasion for any type of political consciousness; after all

it's just a party. That still does not change the fact that the horrible body fascism and "femophobia" so rampant in our communities become intensified during Pride. The "no fats, no fems" sex party culture is just one of the many manifestations of the black gay shame that we have come to call Black Gay Pride. Then there are the well-meaning event organizers. Technically, I could be insinuated in this group. They create spaces for the political consciousness raising alongside the party culture. Very often however, the events are poorly attended and they develop antagonistic relationships with the people they want to reach. Most dangerously however, there is sometimes an implicit self-righteousness which creates a moral hierarchy where those who only want to attend the sex parties at the bottom and those who attend the workshops at the top. This judgmental disposition creates an insider/outsider mentality.

Instead of the insiders being the muscle queens and the outsiders being the big girls and or sissies, the insiders are the community queens and the outsiders are the ones who desire to attend the sex parties and pool parties over the keynotes and workshops. That of course is not to suggest that Pride organizers from D.C., to New York, to our very own Atlanta are not well meaning. But the good intentions sometimes get lost in the subtle judgment.

I also don't want to merely lump both groups and say the sex party organizers and attendees are no better than the political organizers and attendees. I think that that the body fascism, and "femophobia" prevalent in the sexual culture is extremely toxic, dangerous, and frightening. However, the alternative, which might be considered the workshops, panels, and speeches, though less dysfunctional than the "no fats no femmes culture" has its stuff too. And I am saying both stems from a collective shame that is intensified during pride.

Of course there are people during pride who have a good time, and by no means do I want to take that from them. If you have a good time, have a good time, just don't do it at an another brother or sister's expense. Pride at best should be a space for organizing, and sexual expression, and political consciousness, and pool parties, and speeches. Believe it or not we can do it all together. And the muscle worship, the cult of masculinity, and the "femophobia" has to be checked.

BY DARRYL MOCH

NUBIAN SPIRIT

Becoming your Ultimate Self:

Spring into Being

Harambee (Let us come together):

Beloved as we embark on the spring of this year use this time to bring into full blossom your hidden potential. Take a moment to reflect on the things you have over come recently. Loss of relationships, loss of jobs, loss of people that were near and dear to you or the loss of events that have served for years to inspire people to action. As our political landscape continues to change and our opportunities seem to diminish just stop for a moment to think about the things you have survived. Smile. This is a vital part of the journey of becoming your ultimate self.

In school and life many of us have been taught to devalue the "I" in ourselves. Statements like "there is no I in team," or "people who write I too much are to self absorbed" and so on serve the potential to keep us humble but if we go too far we also reject the good and greatness of ourselves by not looking at the "I" in our own life. There is an "I " in LIFE. So for a moment forget what someone might think about you or how it may look but look at the good of the "I" of who you are. You can even write these things down for later reflection.

Understand that I recognize that we are not alone in the universe. There is a power and spirit that govern all life. And it is that same spirit that said " I am." That same "I am" lives in you. So who are you. You are more than the sum of your parts and experiences. You are greater than anything that can or has been conceived about you. Whatever they said was not the whole story. Whatever they thought were not the complete facts. You equal more, by your very nature, than just the things you have done or had done to you.

So, what have you done in your life? Just what have you accomplished. STOP. Do NOT think about the things you have not done. Take control of your mind and stay focused on that which has been completed and done in your life. There is plenty of time to consider the mishaps and challenges you face but today just celebrate the greatness of whom you are, right here and right now.

As a child, I was instructed to learn a poem. Its author is unknown but it has had significance in my life. I am grateful to Al and Barbara Fann for making it part of our life's lesson at that period in my life. In counseling/therapy sessions I teach this to help them to find their place with this idea. I offer it to you today:

I Am I
If I think I am beaten, I am
If I think I dare not, I don't
If I like to win but think I can't it's an absolute fact, I won't
Life's battles do not always go to the strong or fast
But soon or late the I who wins is the I who thinks, I Can

The interesting thing about this poem is how we have and have not lived with it. There were times when we allow ourselves to be defeated by things people said, the way they might feel about us, or how we perceived them perceiving us. And there were times when you couldn't care less and never missed a beat to make things happen. There

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 52

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BY DARRYL MOCH

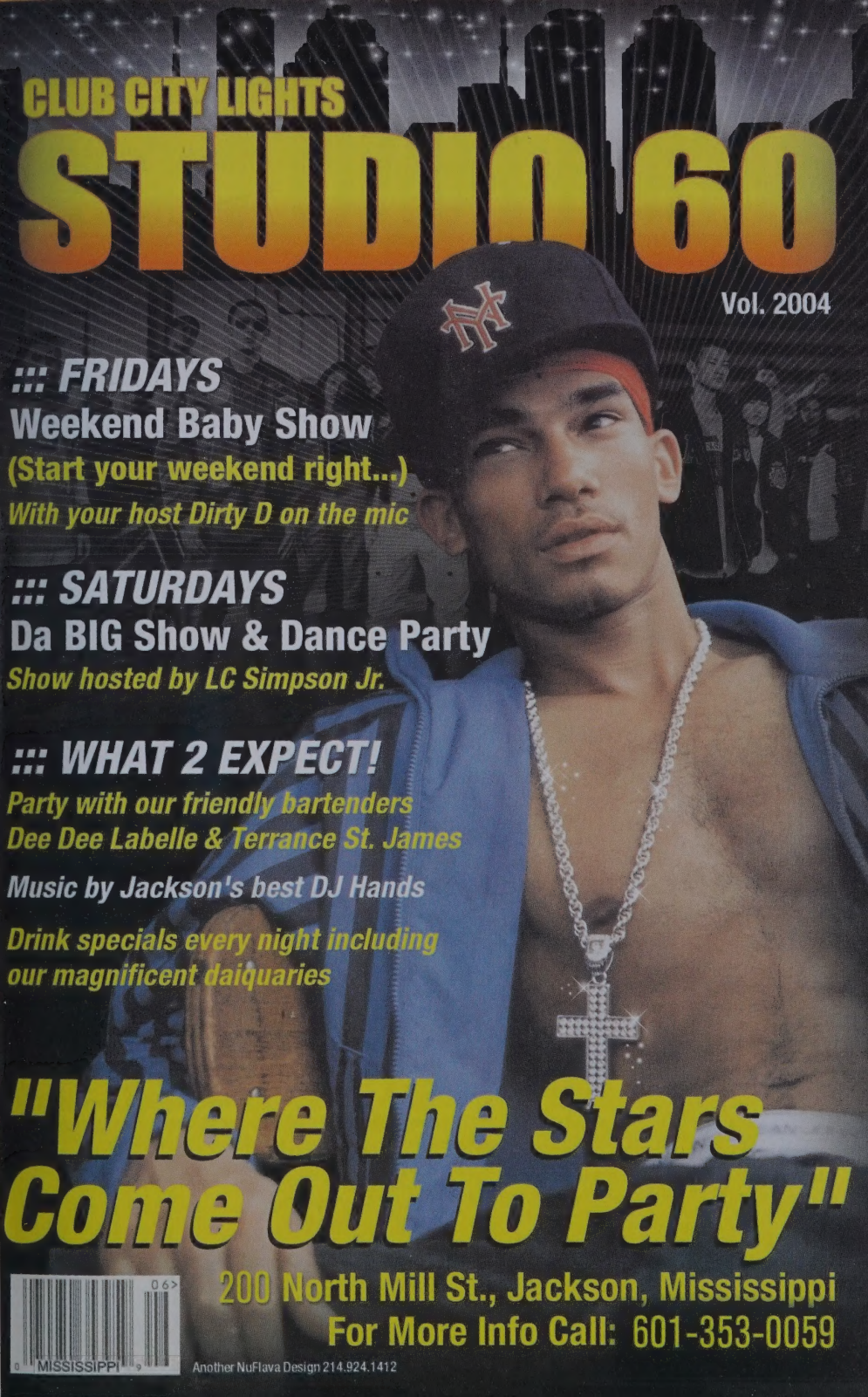
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 50

were times when we gave up. There were times when you refused to give up. Personally, there were times when I sacrificed who I was believing it was for the greater good of the community or someone else. I have found, my brothers and sisters, this can never be true. We may choose not to do something but we can never never compromise who we are – because then we are not authentic and the good of any situation requires that we be authentic, honest, and loving.

So this spring make a vow to yourself to be free. To see your fullness come into bloom. Remember the things you have overcome and press towards the next goal. If, by some challenge, you do not meet your expectations learn from the lesson, pick yourself up, and meet the challenge.

Meditate on these thoughts:

I will not be defeated. I will survive. I will that nothing but greatness and goodness come from me and to me right now. I will that my greatest desires be fulfilled in me. I will to love. I will to live. I will to have peace. And what I will to be - I will give unconditionally to others. I accept others just as they are. I will not stand alone but will stand with my sisters and brothers. I will speak up. I will live a fulfilled life. I will not go down in history but will live through history. There is no power that can overtake me because I am ONE with the only power of truth and love that exists. I am whole, perfect, and good just as I am right now. I will seek to be my greatest good and greatest perfection everyday. I will let no one take ME away from ME, ever. I will not try - I will do. I will be authentic, honest, and loving to myself and to others. And so it is. And so it will be.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Cavalli Power

Danny Cavalli Throws Successful South Florida Ball.

WRITTEN BY
LEWIS NICHOLSON

South Florida is an up and coming place for throwing balls. Joining the elite but short list of ball givers, is none other than Danny Cavalli, a motivated and dynamic young man with the business savvy to undertake an event of such risk and magnitude. On Saturday March 6, 2004 Danny's function, held at the Fort Lauderdale Gay and Lesbian Center brought excitement and drama to the floor.

The highlight of the evening was Best Dressed Spectator, which called for designers delight. This category was a riot and saw the Infiniti woman being chopped for not having a purse. The look was expected to be complete. Carely Cavalli flounced on to the runway, in a creation by her brother Javon Cavalli and caught the attention of the judges. She looked divine, in an all black ensemble with matching pumps. Joining her at center stage, was Jay Monolo Blahnik from Philadelphia, but he was no match for her. The judges decided in her favor. After that particular seating, a slew of Floridians decided to put an end to Ms Cavalli's reign but it was not an easy feat, as she looked lovely. However, an ostentatiously and glamorously dressed Infiniti, who looked equally beautiful, but must have had some Judy's on the panel, deprived her of the grand prize. Grand Prize Infiniti.

Another highlight of the evening was Butch Queen face. Zerrick Milan, New Face Of The Year, (Atlanta) and his brother Forever Milan, showed us that as far as face is concerned they have south Florida covered. The night belonged to Forever, as he was having a monster night and looked lovely.

A ball would not be complete without a major controversy and some shade. Let's talk about the controversy first. The Legendary Icon, Face Goddess, Tony Milan walked off the judges panel when his colleagues decided to be shady and vote for Adonis Vivant over Ralphie Milan, who had turned it for Realness With A Twist. Was it really shade or just a matter of opinion? Here is the shade. In Butch Queen Vogue New Way, Heckaby Milan showed the kids that he was still ruling the category after all these years. After receiving Grand Prize he was not satisfied and decided to call out his rival who had trashed his vogueing skills on the Internet. Commentator Selvyn Infiniti sent to the ladies room to get the Vivant who thought he was better than Heckaby. He came out in an all blue ensemble ready for battle. He popped, dipped, stretched and looked good doing it but he was no match for the legendary Heckaby of New York City fame.

Butch Queen Body was the toast of the night. Javon Cavalli and his brother served us sexy, muscular and models body but the fudges decided that the Milan body of Miami was the one they preferred. I disagree, but what the heck? Every last person who walked body that night looked just right.

There were several other hot categories at this function, which made for an entertaining event.

The house of Vivant must be congratulated for a great showing especially during the Grand Prize category where Mother Vivant represented not just her house but also all of Florida in a well-planned and nicely orchestrated presentation. Because of a lack of participation they did not receive the cash, but it was a beautiful production.

Organizer Danny Cavalli, must be commended on a well ran event which ended with more than enough time for the after party at Club Boi.

The CAVALLI BALL
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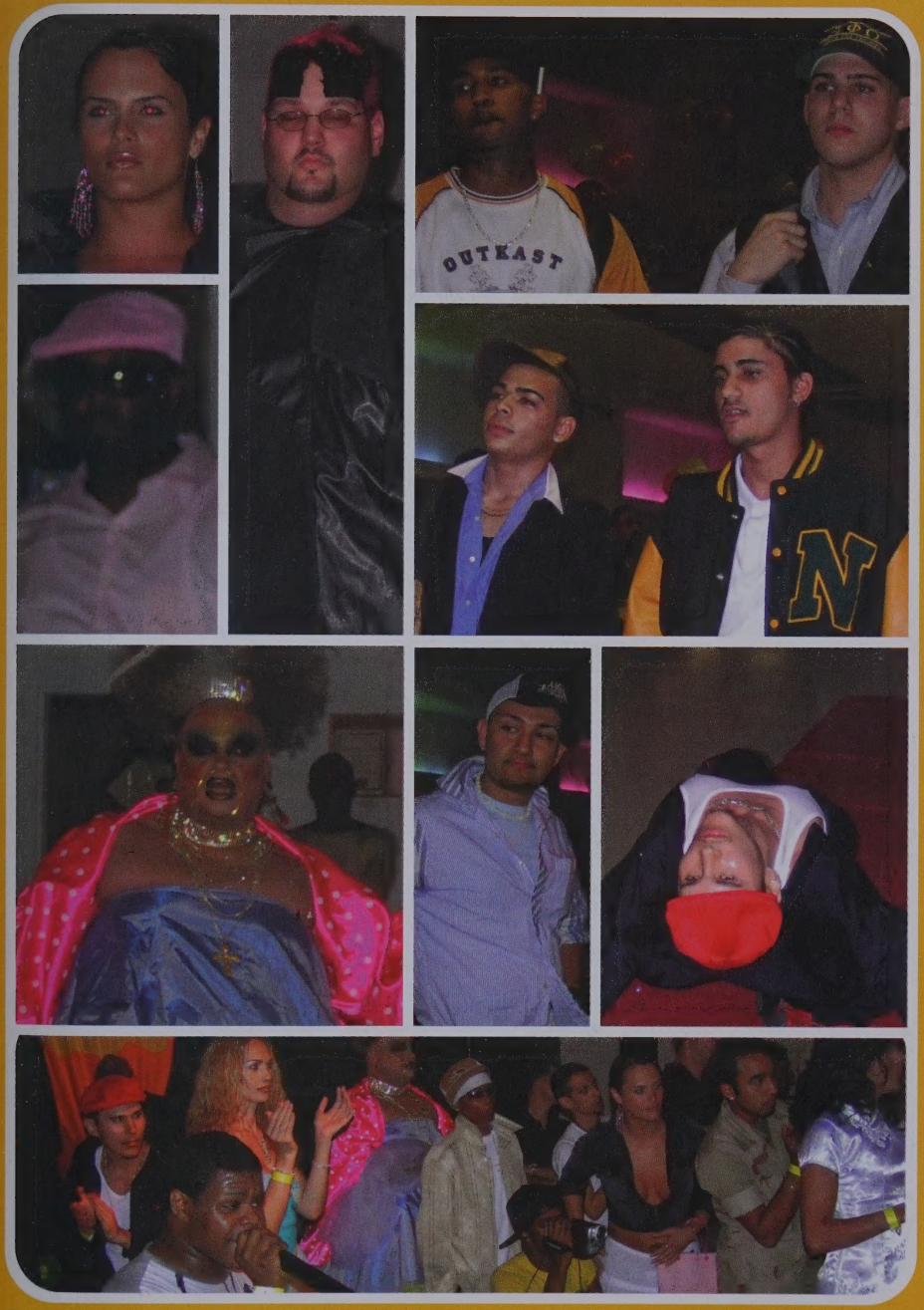

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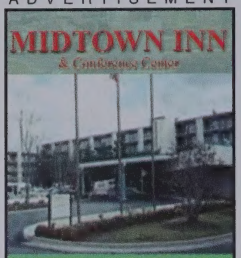

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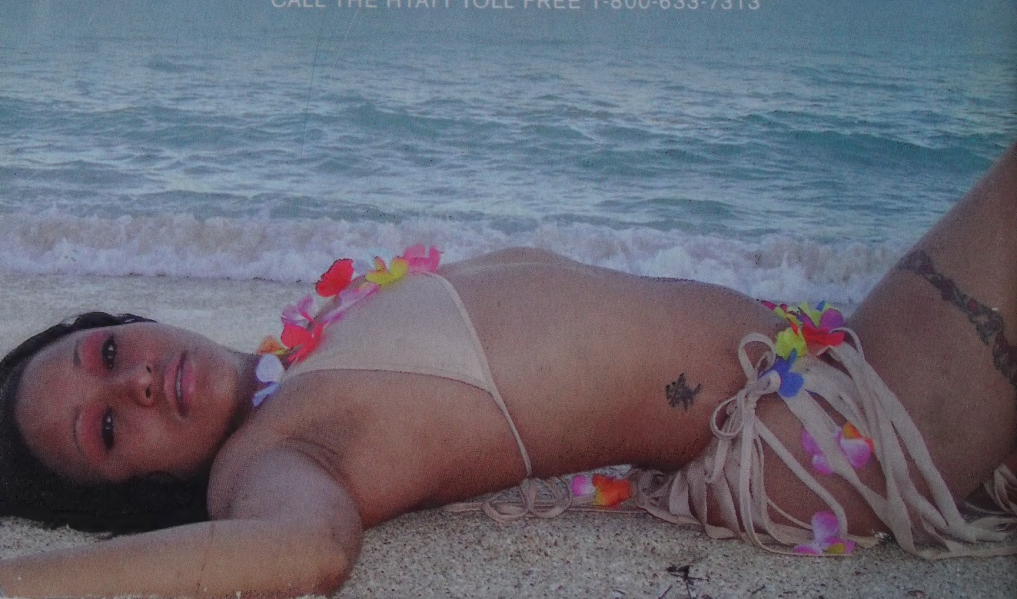
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